

Real Price of High-Speed Optical Cable



Article Overview

High-speed optical cables typically cost between \$0.10 and \$6 per foot, depending on fiber type, core count, and construction, with total installed costs often much higher due to labor and accessories.

Base Cable Costs

- Single-mode fiber (OS1/OS2): \$0.10–\$0.50 per foot for standard cables; premium glass (e.g., Corning) can cost up to \$2.80 per meter due to lower attenuation and higher quality .
- Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4): \$0.30–\$1.00 per foot for standard runs; high-count multimode cables for data centers can reach \$6 per foot .
- Armored cables: Designed for harsh environments or direct burial, prices range from \$0.50 to \$6.50 per foot depending on steel tape armor and LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen) construction .

Factors Affecting Price

- Fiber Count: Higher strand counts increase costs proportionally. For example, a 12-strand cable may cost \$0.50 per foot, while a 288-strand backbone cable can reach \$6 per foot .
- Cable Construction: Indoor riser-rated cables are cheaper than plenum-rated or outdoor armored cables. LSZH jackets add 25–40% to polymer costs .
- Material Quality: Premium glass fibers reduce signal loss at high speeds but are more expensive than generic glass or plastic fibers .
- Pre-Termination: Factory-terminated cables with connectors cost more due to labor and precision assembly

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