

Underground fiber optic cable duct is blocked



Article Overview

A blocked underground fiber optic duct can often be cleared using rods, cameras, or specialized civil teams, but in some cases, limited excavation may be required.

Causes of Blockage

Blockages in underground fiber ducts are commonly caused by sand, stones, debris, or crushed sections of the duct. Construction work, driveway paving, or natural soil movement can introduce obstacles that prevent the cable from being pulled through the conduit. Even small obstructions can stop the installation of new fiber cables.

Inspection and Location

To identify the blockage, technicians may use:

- Rodging: Pushing a rod through the duct to locate the obstruction.
- Cameras: Fiber optic inspection cameras can pinpoint the exact location and nature of the blockage.
- Draw Rope Check: If a draw rope is present, moving it back and forth can help determine if the duct is free or blocked.
- Cat and Genny: Electromagnetic tools can trace the duct route and confirm accessibility.

Clearing the Blockage...

Article Content

Jul 11, 2026

Direct-Buried Installation of Fiber Optic Cable

Arrange material along the route so it will not interfere with cable placement and not cause a hazard to traffic or pedestrians. Flags,

Dec 19, 2025

Optical fibre cable installation techniques

This Recommendation describes the main techniques that allow installation of underground telecommunication network

Oct 05, 2025

Underground Installation of Optic Fiber Cable Placing

Placing cables underground has the added benefits of reducing transmission losses, aiding planning consent and reduced risk of

Nov 10, 2025

5 rules for placing fiber-optic cable in underground plant

A new OFS technical guide covers comprehensive steps for installation of fiber-optic cable in underground plant.

Oct 13, 2025

Underground Fiber Optic Cable Installation: Methods & Cautions

The two most common outdoor fiber optic cable installations in Ohio are pole-line aerial installation and underground cable

Nov 09, 2025

Fiber Optic Cable Duct Installation Guide

This document provides guidelines for installing fiber optic cable into an underground duct using either a pulling or air blowing

Jul 19, 2026

Solved: Blocked duct

Hi all I live on a small cul-de-sac with five houses. I'm 3 months into a FTTP order (ordered in 2022). The original

Feb 05, 2026

OpenReach/BT, upgrading to FTTP and blocked/collapsed ducts.

During their survey however, they found the duct to our house from the pavement, which runs under the 20m driveway,

Dec 27, 2025

Underground Installation of Optic Fiber Cable Placing

Underground cable is placed into ducts which are being built below the ground surface. In urban areas where space for

Dec 23, 2025

Underground Cable Installation

1.03 Fiber optic cable is usually (but not always) installed in an innerduct that has been placed in a standard duct in advance of the

Nov 23, 2025

Duct Installation of Fiber Optic Cable

As fiber optic cable is sensitive to excessive pulling, bending and crush forces, much care shall be taken to avoid cable

Oct 29, 2025

Duct Installation of Fiber Optic Cable

Fiber optic warning signs should be placed on all innerduct containing fiber optic cable. Warning signs can help prevent damage

Mar 22, 2026

Solved: Underground Fibre Broadband Cable

Had three guys from Open Reach install an underground Fibre cable across 80 metres of my garden. The cable runs

Nov 08, 2025

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

Outside Plant Fiber Optic Cable Jump To: Fiber Optic Cable Construction Fiber Optic Cable Types Cable

Jan 13, 2026

Underground Installation of Optic Fiber Cable Placing

Fiber optic cables have provided a more optimal use of available underground conduit space because of its small cable diameter and

May 01, 2026

Underground Congestion Clogging Your Fiber Plans?

A fiber optic cable, or a micro duct and cable, would take up very little room in a conduit. The problem, however, is that old conduit

Mar 24, 2026

101 Guidelines for Fiber Optic Cable Installation

Number of 90 degree turns. The number of 90 degree turns on a pull shall not exceed 6 for aerial cables and 4 for underground cable

Sep 10, 2025

Solved: Blocked duct

The Openreach engineer that visited the property today to install Fibre 900, advised that he could not get the cable

Feb 16, 2026

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics -Outside Plant Construction ...

Due to the disruptive nature of burying conduit, especially under roadways, many governments which grant permits for burying cable

May 09, 2026

Microsoft Word

1.03 Fiber optic cable is usually (but not always) installed in an innerduct that has been placed in a standard duct in advance of the

Jan 24, 2026

Guidelines for Property owners dealing with Blocked Ducting.

The property owner should ensure their duct is fit for purpose in advance of placing an order, to provide adequate time to resolve any

Dec 01, 2025

Installation of Optical Fiber Cable by Blowing/Jetting

Standard optical fiber cables (like uni-tube, multi-tube, unarmored & armored), microduct cables, and micro-ducts can be installed by

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