

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

4 How much does one meter of fiber optic cable cost



Overview

The unit cost of fiber optic cables can vary from \$0.05 to \$1.50 per meter, depending on several variables.

Key Takeaways

The cost of one meter of fiber optic cable ranges from approximately \$0.05 to \$6, depending on type, strand count, and construction.

Price Ranges by Cable Type

- Single-mode fiber (OS2): Typically costs \$0.30 to \$2.80 per meter, with lower prices for generic glass and higher prices for premium brands like Corning that offer lower attenuation over long distances .

- Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4): Costs are higher due to manufacturing complexity, ranging from \$1.50 to \$6 per meter .

- Armored cables: Designed for harsh environments or direct burial, these can cost \$1.15 to \$6.50 per meter .

Factors Affecting Cost

- Fiber Count: Cables with more strands (e.g., 24-core or 96-core) are more expensive than 2-core or 12-core cables .

- Cable Construction: Armored, loose tube, or tight-buffered designs increase material costs. Indoor-rated cables (PVC or LSZH) are cheaper than outdoor-rated or flame-retardant cables .

- **Environmental Rating:** Outdoor, UV-resistant, or direct-burial cables cost more than indoor cables due to additional protective materials .

- **Connectorization and Pre-Termination:** Pre-terminated or factory-terminated cables increase the per-meter cost due to labor and precision requirements .

Wholesale vs Retail

- **Wholesale bulk purchases:** Approximately \$0.09 to \$1.52 per foot ($\approx$ \$0.30 to \$5 per meter) for standard cables .

- **Retail or pre-terminated cables:** Can range from \$1 to \$6 per foot ($\approx$ \$3.30 to \$19.70 per meter), depending on fiber type and strand count .

Summary

For a typical project, expect basic single-mode fiber to cost around \$0.30–\$1 per meter, multimode fiber around \$1.50–\$6 per meter, and armored or specialty cables at the higher end of the range. Prices vary based on fiber count, cable construction, environmental rating, and whether the cable is purchased wholesale or retail .

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