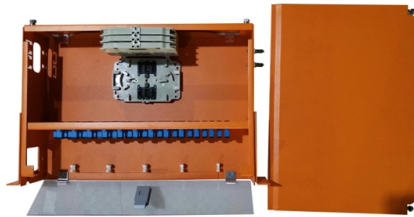


## Fiber optic cable removal costs



### Overview

Fiber optic cable repair costs can vary widely depending on fiber type, run length, and access to the cable.

### Key Takeaways

The cost of removing or terminating fiber optic cables typically ranges from \$1 to \$3 per foot, depending on cable type, access difficulty, and labor requirements. Cost Breakdown

The total cost of fiber optic cable removal depends on several factors:

- **Labor:** Skilled technicians are required for safe removal, splicing, and testing. Labor rates typically range from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per foot, with higher rates for difficult access or outdoor installations .
- **Materials and Equipment:** Removal may involve connectors, splice closures, patch cables, and specialized tools like fusion splicers or OTDR testers. Equipment rental or purchase can add to the cost .
- **Permits and Access:** Urban areas may require permits, road or sidewalk closures, or right-of-way approvals, which can increase costs .
- **Cable Type:** Single-mode fiber is generally more expensive to handle than multimode fiber due to precision requirements .

- Termination Method: If the removal involves terminating the cable for reuse, methods like fusion splicing are more costly than mechanical splicing or epoxy-and-polish techniques .

#### Typical Price Examples

- Indoor, short runs ( $\approx 1,000$  ft): Basic removal and termination may cost around \$2,650–\$3,100, including labor, connectors, and minor permits .

- Outdoor, longer runs ( $\approx 2,000$  ft) with conduit and multiple terminations: Costs can range from \$4,940–\$6,120, factoring in labor, permits, delivery, and accessories .

#### Additional Considerations

- Fault Location and Complexity: If the cable is damaged or difficult to access, costs increase due to additional fault-finding, splicing, and testing .
- Bundling Work: Coordinating removal with other maintenance or installation projects can reduce mobilization costs .
- Contingency: Always include a contingency for unexpected issues, such as hidden damage or environmental obstacles . In summary, fiber optic cable removal costs vary widely, but planning for \$1–\$3 per foot plus potential permit and equipment fees provides a practical estimate. Costs are influenced by cable type, termination method, labor complexity, and local regulations, so obtaining a detailed site-specific quote is recommended.

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