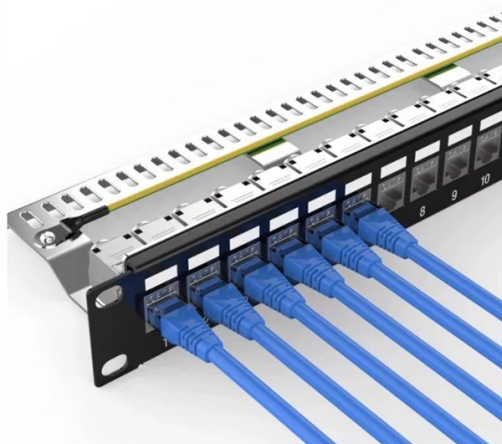


Price of laying 72-core optical fiber cable



Overview

After analyzing 40+ U.S. fiber projects, we've assembled current material rates, labor burdens, and hidden fees.

Key Takeaways

The cost of laying a 72-core optical fiber cable typically ranges from \$0.90 to \$6 per foot for the cable itself, with total installation costs including labor and trenching potentially reaching \$11,000 to \$22,000 for several thousand feet. Cable Material Costs

The price of a 72-core fiber optic cable depends on type and construction:

- Single-mode vs. multimode: Single-mode fiber is generally less expensive per foot than multimode fiber but requires more costly equipment for termination and testing .
- Outdoor armored cables: For direct burial or harsh environments, armored cables like GYTY53 with double PE sheaths and water-blocking gel can be used, offering durability and long-distance transmission. These cables are priced favorably in the market, often within the \$1-\$6 per foot range depending on specifications .
- Bulk purchases: Wholesale or bulk orders can reduce per-foot costs, sometimes as low as \$0.09 to \$1.52 per foot for materials alone .

Installation Costs

Installation costs vary based on environment and method:



- Underground installation: Trenching, ducting, or bore work increases costs significantly. For example, a 4,500-foot single-mode underground installation with protective ducting and fusion splicing can total \$11,000–\$22,000, including labor, permits, and testing .
- Indoor or aerial runs: These are generally less expensive, with total project costs for a few thousand feet ranging from \$3,000–\$5,000, including labor and basic terminations .
- Labor and equipment: Labor rates, testing (OTDR), and connectorization add to the total cost. Pre-terminated assemblies or patch panels can further increase expenses .

Factors Affecting Total Price

- Cable type and strand count: Higher fiber counts increase material costs proportionally .
- Cable construction: Armored, plenum-rated, or water-blocked cables cost more than standard indoor cables .
- Installation environment: Underground, direct burial, or conduit installations are more expensive than aerial or indoor runs .
- Permits and local regulations: Municipal requirements for right-of-way access or permits can add several hundred to several thousand dollars .

Summary

For a 72-core optical fiber cable, expect:

- Material cost: \$0.90–\$6 per foot depending on type and construction.
- Total installed cost: \$11,000–\$22,000 for several thousand feet of underground single-mode cable, including labor, trenching, and testing.
- Cost optimization: Bulk purchases, standard connectors, and off-peak scheduling can reduce expenses. This estimate provides a realistic range for planning a large-scale fiber optic installation project.

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