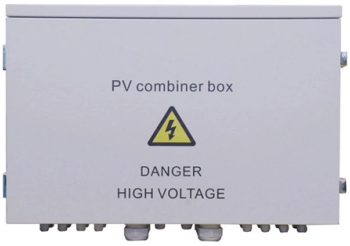
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Fiber optic cable v cable



Overview

The plethora of fiber optic cable types can seem overwhelming, but choosing the right cable for the job is important.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic cable is not the same as traditional cable; it uses glass or plastic fibers to transmit data as light, while cable uses copper wires to transmit electrical signals.Key Differences



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Transmission Medium: Fiber optic cables transmit data using pulses of light through ultra-thin glass or plastic strands, whereas traditional cable (coaxial) uses copper wires to carry electrical signals . Speed and Performance: Fiber optic cables offer much higher speeds and can provide symmetrical upload and download rates, making them ideal for streaming, gaming, and cloud services. Cable internet typically has asymmetrical speeds, with slower uploads compared to downloads, and is more prone to congestion and interference . Reliability: Fiber is less affected by weather, electromagnetic interference, or distance from the provider, resulting in more consistent performance. Cable can experience signal degradation over long distances and during peak usage times . Installation and Infrastructure: Fiber often requires new infrastructure and direct installation to homes (FTTH), while cable can use existing TV coaxial lines, making it more widely available and easier to install in many areas . Cost: Fiber installation and service plans can be more expensive due to the advanced technology and infrastructure requirements, whereas cable is generally more budget-friendly but may compromise on speed and reliability . Physical Characteristics: Fiber cables are thinner, lighter, and more flexible than coaxial cables, which are thicker and have a copper core with multiple protective layers . In summary, while both fiber optic and cable can deliver internet and data services, fiber optic cable represents a more advanced technology with higher speed, reliability, and efficiency, whereas traditional cable relies on older copper wiring and is more susceptible to performance limitations.

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Fiber Optic Cable vs. Twisted Pair Cable Twisted pair cable is a kind of wiring in which two conductors of a single

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