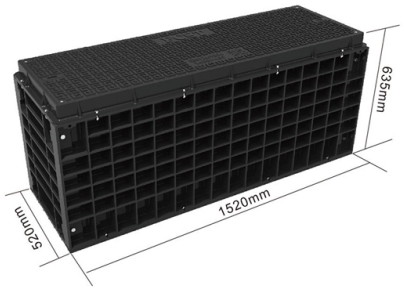
ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

How much does aerial fiber optic cable cost per meter



Overview

Comprehensive guide to fiber optic cable cost, including material pricing, installation rates, and total project budgets.

Key Takeaways

Aerial fiber optic cable typically costs between $0.30 and $6.50 per meter, depending on type, fiber count, and protective features.Cost Breakdown
• Single-mode fiber (OS2): $0.30 to $2.80 per meter, with higher prices for premium brands or higher fiber counts .

• Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4): $1.50 to $6.00 per meter, generally used for shorter distances and high-speed data centers .

• Armored cables: $1.15 to $6.50 per meter, providing protection against physical damage such as rodents or construction impacts .

• Bulk pricing: For standard G652.D aerial cables, prices range from $2,900 to $4,200 per mile, translating roughly to $1.80 to $2.60 per meter, with discounts for orders over 10 miles .
Factors Affecting Price
• Fiber Count: Higher core counts (e.g., 144-core vs 48-core) can increase costs by up to 60% .

• Cable Type: Self-supporting (ADSS) cables are more expensive than catenary or lashed designs due to integrated strength members .

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• Jacket Material: LSZH jackets cost 25–40% more than standard PVC but offer better fire safety and environmental protection .

• Installation: Aerial installation is generally cheaper than underground, averaging $8–12 per linear foot including labor and hardware, which adds $26–$39 per meter to total project costs .

• Project Scale: Bulk orders reduce per-meter costs, while small or custom-length orders increase them .
Practical Considerations
• Urban vs Rural: Labor and permit costs vary by location, affecting total per-meter cost .

• Durability Needs: Armored or UV-resistant cables are recommended for long spans or harsh environments, increasing upfront cost but reducing long-term maintenance.

• Pre-terminated vs Raw Cable: Pre-terminated cables cost 20–30% more but reduce on-site splicing labor, potentially lowering overall project expenses . In summary, expect to pay roughly $0.30–$6.50 per meter for aerial fiber optic cable, with the final cost influenced by fiber type, core count, protective features, and installation requirements. For large-scale projects, bulk purchasing and careful selection of cable type can significantly reduce per-meter costs.

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