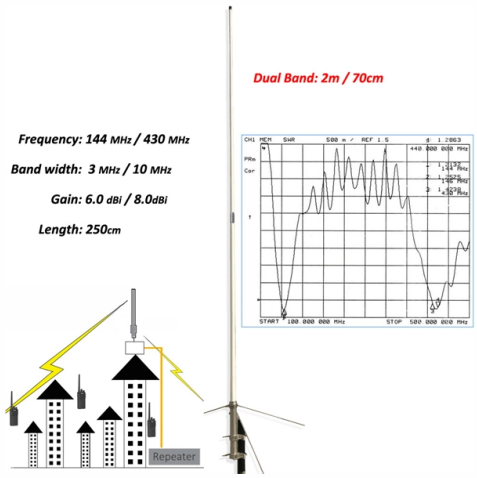
ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

Prices of Drop Cables and Optical Cables



Overview

This video was associated with the source search result. Verify technical details against current product documentation and project requirements.

Key Takeaways

Drop cables typically range from $0.13 to $1.50 per foot, while larger optical fiber cables can cost $1 to $6 per foot depending on type, fiber count, and installation requirements.Drop Cable Pricing

Drop cables connect a service provider's distribution network to the end user and are essential for FTTH or FTTP installations. Prices vary based on fiber count, armoring, and environmental suitability:

• Standard 1-core FTTH drop cable: around $0.13 per foot ($0.43 per meter) for bulk purchases .

• Armored or outdoor-rated drop cables: can cost approximately 50% more than indoor LSZH cables due to enhanced durability and lower maintenance in harsh environments .

• Multi-fiber drop cables (up to 12 fibers): prices increase with fiber count and protective features, typically ranging from $0.50 to $1.50 per foot depending on specifications . Bulk orders (≥5 km) often reduce per-meter costs by 20–40%, and suppliers may offer additional discounts when bundled with patch cords or pre-terminated assemblies .
Optical Fiber Cable Pricing

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Optical fiber cables are priced based on fiber type, strand count, and construction:

• Single-mode fiber (OS1/OS2): suitable for long-distance transmission, generally less expensive per foot than multimode fiber but requires more costly equipment .

• Multimode fiber (OM3/OM4): supports shorter distances, lower-cost transceivers, and is commonly used in data centers and enterprise LANs .

• Material costs: range from $0.09 to $1.52 per foot for wholesale bulk purchases, or $1 to $6 per foot at retail depending on fiber count and cable type .

• High-count backbone cables: e.g., 288-fiber cables, can reach $6 per foot or more .
Installation method also affects total cost: underground or direct-buried installations are more expensive than aerial or indoor runs, and pre-terminated assemblies add to the price .
Factors Affecting Prices
• Cable type and fiber count: More fibers and armored construction increase cost.

• Environmental rating: Outdoor, gel-filled, or flame-retardant cables are more expensive.

• Installation complexity: Underground or long-span aerial installations raise total cost.

• Bulk purchasing: Large orders reduce per-unit cost.

• Total cost of ownership (TCO): Includes CAPEX and OPEX over the cable's lifetime; armored cables may have higher upfront cost but lower replacement frequency .
Summary
• Drop cables: $0.13–$1.50 per foot depending on fiber count, armoring, and environment.

• Optical fiber cables: $0.09–$6 per foot depending on type, fiber count, and installation method.

• Bulk orders and supplier selection: Can significantly reduce costs and improve long-term reliability. Selecting the right cable involves balancing initial cost, durability, and long-term maintenance, with armored or specialized cables offering better performance in challenging environments .

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