

RIVO MULTITRADE OPTICAL SYSTEMS

Street-side fiber optic cable prices



Overview

Buyers typically see a wide range in fiber cost per foot depending on cable type, installation method, and terrain.

Key Takeaways

Street-side fiber optic cable installation in the U.S. typically costs \$0.20–\$1.50 per foot for cable alone, with total installed costs ranging from \$2 to \$40 per foot depending on trenching, labor, and project complexity.

Fiber optic cable prices vary by type and strand count:

- Single-mode fiber (SMF): \$0.25–\$0.90 per foot for standard outdoor-rated cable, suitable for long-distance runs .
- Multimode fiber (MMF): \$0.25–\$1.20 per foot, often slightly higher for OM4 or OM5 grades .
- High-count backbone cables (e.g., 288 strands) can reach \$6 per foot or more .
- Pre-terminated or patch cables cost more due to factory terminations and connector types . Bulk purchases reduce per-foot costs by roughly 20% for reels of 10,000 ft compared to 1,000 ft .

Installation and Labor Costs

Street-side installations involve additional costs beyond the cable:



- Trenching or directional boring: \$8-\$40 per foot depending on soil, urban density, and road crossings .
- Labor: \$60-\$180 per hour for licensed technicians, with fusion splicing adding time and cost .
- Permits and right-of-way access: Costs vary by municipality; in some regions, permits can add \$1-\$1.20 per foot .
- Aerial installation (utility poles) costs \$1.20-\$2.50 per foot, including pole attachment permits . For a typical 1,000 ft street-side run with ducting and splices, total project costs often fall between \$4,000 and \$9,000, while more complex urban bores or long-distance runs can exceed \$20,000 .

Factors Affecting Total Cost

- Fiber type: Single-mode is preferred for long runs but may require more precise splicing. Multimode is cheaper for shorter distances.
- Installation method: Open trench is cheapest (\$0.90-\$1.80/ft), directional boring is more expensive (\$3-\$7/ft) to avoid surface disruption .
- Cable protection: Armored or corrugated steel tape adds \$0.60-\$1.20 per foot .
- Distance and terrain: Longer runs and rocky or urban soils increase trenching and labor costs .
- Permits and local regulations: Municipal requirements can add hundreds to thousands of dollars per project .

Summary

For street-side fiber optic projects in 2026:

- Cable only: \$0.20-\$1.50 per foot for standard outdoor fiber .
- Installed cost: \$2-\$40 per foot depending on trenching, labor, permits, and complexity .
- Project examples:
 - 1,000 ft outdoor run with ducting: \$4,000-\$9,000
 - 4,500 ft underground bore with protective ducting: \$11,000-\$22,000 Careful planning, bulk purchasing, and choosing standard fiber grades can help reduce costs while ensuring long-term reliability.

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