Price of Mobile Optical Cable

Overview

Amazon.com: Optical CableFind reliable Toslink fiber optic cables for your home audio setup. Available in multiple lengths with corrosion-resistant connect.

Key Takeaways

Mobile optical cable prices vary widely, from around $0.13 per foot for simple FTTH cables to $6 per foot for high-count backbone cables, with large-scale procurement prices in China averaging $2.32 per fiber-kilometer.Retail and Material Costs

For individual or small-scale purchases, fiber-optic cable materials typically cost $1 to $6 per linear foot, depending on fiber count, type (single-mode vs multimode), and jacket construction. Simple 1-core FTTH drop cables can cost as low as $0.13 per foot, while high-count cables for building backbones may reach $6 per foot. Pre-terminated assemblies and patch cables are more expensive due to factory termination and connector type variations. Wholesale bulk purchases can reduce material costs to $0.09–$1.52 per foot .

Installation and Project Costs

When including installation, costs increase significantly. For example, a 1,000-foot single-mode indoor run with minimal termination may total $2,650–$3,100, while a 2,000-foot outdoor run with conduit and multiple terminations can cost $4,940–$6,120. Premium outdoor runs with armored cables, multiple splices, and professional testing may reach $11,000–$14,500. Costs depend on labor, permits, trenching, splicing, and connector requirements .

Large-Scale Procurement Prices

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In large-scale tenders, such as China Mobile's 2025/2026 optical cable procurement, the weighted average price for loose-tube optical cables was RMB53.85 per fiber-kilometer including VAT (approximately $6.63 per F-km). The implied price for bare fiber was RMB18.85 per F-km including VAT (around $2.32 per F-km), reflecting a 35% decline from previous tenders due to market oversupply and reduced domestic consumption . Major suppliers like ZTT, Hengtong, YOFC, and FiberHome dominated the tender, highlighting the influence of production capacity, quality, and delivery reliability on pricing.

Factors Affecting Price
• Fiber type: Single-mode is cheaper per foot than multimode but requires more expensive equipment.

• Installation method: Underground or armored cables cost more than aerial or indoor runs.

• Cable count and jacket: Higher fiber counts and specialized jackets increase cost.

• Market conditions: Raw material prices, supply-demand balance, and procurement scale influence pricing.

• Geography: Regional labor, permits, and logistics can add 5–25% variation to total project costs . In summary, mobile optical cable prices range from a few cents per foot for simple retail cables to several dollars per foot for high-count or specialized cables, while large-scale procurement prices in China are around $2–$2.5 per fiber-kilometer, with variations depending on fiber type, installation, and market conditions.

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