ZITHA TECH SPECIALTY CABLES (Pty) Ltd

Price quote for armored optical cables



Overview

PRICING IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE - especially on plenum based singlemode and multimode armored fiber cables.

Key Takeaways

Armored optical cables typically cost between $0.50 and $5 per foot, depending on fiber type, core count, and armor construction.Price Range

The cost of armored fiber optic cables varies widely based on several factors. For materials only, prices generally range from $0.50 to $5 per foot . Lower-end prices are for simple, low-strand-count cables, while higher-end prices reflect high strand counts, single-mode fibers, and robust armor suitable for harsh environments or direct burial . Retail prices may be higher, typically $1 to $6 per foot, especially for pre-terminated assemblies or patch cables .

Factors Affecting Cost
• Fiber Type and Count: Single-mode fibers are generally more expensive than multimode. A 12-strand cable may cost around $0.50 per foot, while a 24-strand cable can reach $1 per foot or more .

• Armor Type:
• Steel Tape Armored (STA): Corrugated steel tape wrapped around the cable, providing radial compression resistance.

• Steel Wire Armored (SWA): Layers of steel wires offering superior tensile and impact resistance.

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• Double Armored: Combination of tape and wire for extreme conditions like submarine or mining applications .

• Jacket Material: LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen), PE, or PVC jackets affect durability, fire safety, and cost .

• Installation Environment: Outdoor, direct burial, or industrial applications require more robust armor, increasing cost. Indoor riser-rated armored cables are generally less expensive than plenum-rated or outdoor-rated armored cables .
Types and Applications
• Single-mode (OS2): Ideal for long-distance transmission, campus backbones, and metropolitan networks.

• Multimode (OM1–OM4): Suitable for shorter distances and high-bandwidth applications .

• Direct Burial: Steel armored cables are preferred for underground installations to resist crushing, rodents, and moisture .

• Indoor/Plenum: Armored cables with LSZH jackets are safer for indoor installations and provide flame resistance .
Additional Considerations

Buying in bulk (e.g., 10 km+ reels) can significantly reduce unit costs compared to retail or pre-cut lengths . Pre-terminated or factory-assembled cables are more expensive due to labor and connector costs. Armored cables are a one-time investment that protects against network downtime and environmental damage, making them cost-effective for long-term installations . In summary, expect armored fiber optic cables to cost $0.50–$5 per foot, with the final price influenced by fiber type, strand count, armor type, jacket material, and installation environment. For large projects, bulk purchasing and careful specification can optimize costs while ensuring durability and performance .

Article Content

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