

Pricing of Multimode Fiber Optic Cables



Overview

This guide outlines the major factors that influence fiber optic cable costs and provides practical tips for estimating pricing in bulk or project-based scenarios.

Key Takeaways

Multimode fiber optic cables typically range from \$2.50 to \$5.50 per foot, with specialized or armored versions costing up to \$13.50 per foot.

Price Ranges by Fiber Type
OM1 (62.5-micron core): Most affordable, suitable for short-distance applications, priced around \$2.50 per foot.

OM2 (50-micron core): Slightly higher performance than OM1, generally in the \$3.00 to \$4.00 per foot range.

OM3 (50-micron, laser-optimized): Designed for higher bandwidth and longer distances, costs \$3.50 to \$4.25 per foot.

OM4 (50-micron, enhanced laser-optimized): Superior performance for high-speed data centers, priced \$4.00 to \$4.50 per foot for standard riser or plenum-rated cables.

OM5: Advanced multimode fiber for wideband applications, typically more expensive than OM4 due to enhanced performance features, reaching \$5.00 to \$13.50 per foot for armored or specialized versions.

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Factors Affecting Pricing

Fiber Count: Higher strand counts increase cost proportionally. For example, a 12-strand cable may cost around \$0.50 per foot, while a 24-strand cable can reach \$1.

00 per foot for standard multimode fiber. **Cable Construction:** Indoor riser-rated cables are cheaper than plenum-rated cables designed for air-handling spaces. Armored cables for harsh environments or direct burial can cost \$0.

50 to \$5 per foot more. **Application and Environment:** Outdoor, UV-resistant, or direct-burial cables are priced higher due to additional protective materials and compliance requirements. **Pre-terminated Assemblies:** Factory-terminated cables or patch cords incur higher costs due to labor and connector types.

Bulk Purchases: Buying in large quantities (e.g., >10 km) can reduce per-foot costs, while custom lengths or urgent orders may increase prices.

Summary

For typical data center or LAN applications, OM1 and OM2 are cost-effective for short runs, while OM3 and OM4 are preferred for higher-speed or longer-distance links. The final cost depends on fiber type, strand count, jacket rating, and whether pre-terminated assemblies are used. Planning based on required transmission distance and bandwidth can help avoid overspending on higher-grade fibers unnecessarily.

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