

What are the methods for stripping wax from optical cable splices



Overview

The Ultimate Optical Fiber Stripper Guide Explore Optical Fiber Stripper types and uses. Learn pro techniques for precise stripping to ensure reliable netw.

Key Takeaways

Wax or protective coatings on optical fibers can be removed using mechanical, chemical, or thermal methods, with careful cleaning to preserve fiber integrity.

Mechanical Stripping

Mechanical stripping uses precision tools designed to remove the fiber coating or wax without damaging the glass core. Common tools include handheld fiber strippers, adjustable strippers for non-standard diameters, and automated stripping machines. The process involves: Using a fiber stripper to remove the buffer coating or wax over a defined length (typically 30–40 mm) without nicking the fiber.

Minimizing the number of passes to reduce surface flaws on the glass, which can weaken the fiber. For multi-layer cables, stripping is done progressively: first the jacket, then aramid yarn, and finally the buffer coating. Mechanical stripping is generally preferred because it produces a clean, well-defined coating termination and avoids chemical residue.

Chemical Stripping

Chemical methods dissolve the wax or coating using solvents or acids. Common approaches include: Applying high-purity alcohol (e.g., 99% isopropyl alcohol) with a lint-free pad to remove residual wax or gel. Using specialized solvents or degreasers compatible with optical fibers, such as Fiber-Clean™, d'Gel, or HydraSol, to wipe off petroleum-based gels.

For more stubborn coatings, chemical strippers like paint stripper gels or controlled exposure to sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) at elevated temperatures can soften the coating for removal with lens tissue. Care must be taken to remove all chemical residues, as leftover solvents can continue to soften the coating and compromise splice reliability. Chemical stripping is recommended when very high reliability is required, but it requires careful handling and adherence to safety regulations due to potential hazards from solvents or acids.

Thermal Stripping

Thermal methods soften the coating or wax using heat, making it easier to remove mechanically: Heated hand tools or thermal strippers (e.g., Vytran FFS-2000, FiberStrip 7030) can safely strip coatings on standard and specialty fibers. Some tools combine heat with mechanical stripping to reduce the risk of fiber damage and improve consistency.

Best Practices

Always use lint-free materials to avoid contamination. Wear safety glasses and work in a clean area to prevent injury from fiber shards or chemical exposure. For multi-layer cables, strip each layer individually to avoid damaging underlying fibers.

Inspect the stripped fiber to ensure a clean, straight edge without jagged or torn coating. By combining these methods appropriately, technicians can safely and effectively remove wax or protective coatings from optical cable splices while maintaining fiber strength and splice reliability.

Article Content

The Ultimate Optical Fiber Stripper Guide

Explore Optical Fiber Stripper types and uses. Learn pro techniques for precise stripping to ensure reliable network performance with top tools.

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Good fiber optic stripping techniques in your cable assembly process are crucial. See best practices for how to strip fiber optic cable buffers & jackets.

Fusion Splicing Basics (Part 2): Strippers and Cleavers

The main types include mechanical handheld tools with precise blades, thermo-mechanical strippers that use heat to soften the coating, non-contact methods like hot air or laser ablation, and chemical

trueCABLE's Fiber Optic Cable Strippers: The Essential Tool for Fiber

Precise fiber optic stripping matters. See trueCABLE's 3-hole Fiber Optic Stripper features, safe use tips, and step-by-step guide for flawless terminations.

Optical Fiber Strippers

Our range of optical fiber strippers extends from handy, pocket-sized tools to fully automated plasma-assisted stripping machines. In addition to a wide range of fiber stripping pliers and fiber strippers,

Fiber Optic Stripping

In the case of acrylate coated fibers, the removal of the coating is relatively easy and with precisely positioned stripping blades and a controlled linear pull mechanical fiber strippers yield high strength

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

There are three types of fiber optic stripping tools commonly used, commonly known by their brand names, Miller, No-Nik and Microstrip. Millers look like wire strippers and are quite rugged but require

Fiber Splicing & Winding Tutorial – Step-by-Step Guide

Learn fiber splicing and winding in 5 steps with pro tips on stripping, cleaving, fusion, and sleeve protection. Ensure low-loss, reliable fiber connections.

Preparing your Fiber Optic Cable for Connectors or Splices

In this guide, we'll walk you through the entire process of preparing fiber optic cable for splicing and termination to fiber connectors. We'll explore the

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Discover the essential techniques for splicing fiber optic cable, including fusion splicing and mechanical splicing. Learn about fiber optic tools, connectors, and best practices for ensuring

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The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics -Mechanical Splices

Mechanical Splicing Process Cable and fiber preparation is practically the same as for fusion splicing. Prepare the cables to be spliced (VHO on cable preparation) Strip jacket, removing an adequate

The Ultimate Guide to Splicing of Fiber: Techniques and Tips

Looking to understand fiber splicing? It's the process of joining two fiber optic cables using techniques such as fusion splicing and mechanical splicing, crucial for maintaining

Preparing your Fiber Optic Cable for Connectors or Splices

Learn the essential steps and tools for preparing fiber optic cables for connectors or splices. Master mechanical and fusion splicing techniques to

ST-F101H 2448C Fiber Optic Splice Closure

Discover the essential techniques for splicing fiber optic cable, including fusion splicing and mechanical splicing. Learn about fiber optic tools, connectors, and best practices for ensuring

The FOA Reference For Fiber Optics

Fusion Splicing Fusion splicing is the process of fusing or welding two fibers together usually by an electric arc. Fusion splicing is the most widely used method of splicing as it provides for the lowest

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