

Price of Outdoor Flexible Optical Cable



Article Overview

Outdoor optical cables are generally more expensive than flexible indoor cables due to their reinforced construction, protective layers, and environmental durability.

Cost Comparison

Flexible indoor optical cables (also called tight-buffered or G.657 cables) are designed for indoor use, prioritizing flexibility, ease of termination, and high-density installations. They typically feature a 0.9 mm protective sheath and aramid fiber reinforcement, which costs around \$5,000–\$6,000 per ton. Despite this, indoor cables are generally less expensive per meter than outdoor cables because they do not require heavy armoring or thick jackets for environmental protection. Outdoor optical cables are engineered for harsh environments, including UV exposure, moisture, temperature fluctuations, and physical stress. They often include steel wire or tape reinforcement, thicker protective jackets, water-blocking gels, and sometimes armor layers. These additional materials and construction requirements make outdoor cables heavier and more costly than indoor cables, especially for long-distance or high-fiber-count installations.

Factors Influencing Price Differences

- **Reinforcement Materials:** Indoor cables use aramid fibers (Kevlar), while outdoor cables use steel or armored layers for tensile strength and durability.
- **Protective Coatings:** Outdoor cables have thicker jackets and water-blocking layers to resist environmental hazards, increasing material costs.



Article Content

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Fiber-optic cable A TOSLINK optical fiber cable with a clear jacket. These cables are used mainly for digital audio connections

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