

Fiber Optic Cable Removal Techniques



Overview

After the OCA is fully drained, power down the OCA completely by following the instructions in this article.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic cable removal involves careful sheath stripping, fiber access, and handling to prevent damage and ensure safety. Safety Precautions

Before starting, always wear safety gloves and glasses to protect against sharp tools and fiber shards, and ensure proper ventilation if using chemical cleaners or adhesives (). Avoid excessive pulling, bending, or crushing of the cable, and follow the manufacturer's minimum bend radius and pulling force specifications ().

Tools Required

- Fiber optic cable stripper
- Sheath knife or utility knife
- Fiber optic cleaver
- Alcohol wipes or cleaning solution
- Fiber inspection microscope or visual fault locator (VFL)
- Tape markers and measuring tools ()

Step-by-Step Sheath Removal

- Inspect the Cable: Check for kinks, bends, or damage before starting ().

- Mark the Sheath: For end access, mark the length of sheath to remove (typically 6 feet or 2 meters unless otherwise specified) ().
- Ring the Sheath: Use a sheath knife to score the circumference at the marked point without cutting the fibers inside ().
- Remove the Outer Sheath: Carefully peel back the sheath to expose the buffer tubes or fiber bundles ().
- Mid-Span Access: Locate a buffer tube reversal point to safely unwind the tubes for mid-span access. Remove only the necessary length of sheath to avoid fiber stress ().
- High Fiber Count Cables: If the cable has multiple layers of buffer tubes, remove the outer layer first, then handle the inner layer similarly ().

Fiber Preparation

- Strip Individual Fibers: Use a fiber optic stripper to remove protective coatings from each fiber ().
- Clean Fibers: Wipe with alcohol or cleaning solution to remove debris ().
- Cleave Fibers: Use a fiber optic cleaver to create a clean, perpendicular end face ().
- Inspect Fibers: Check for smoothness and absence of defects using a microscope or VFL ().

Handling and Storage

- Avoid touching the fiber ends with bare hands.
- Use slack loops (typically 96 inches or 244 cm) to facilitate routing and storage within closures ().
- Dispose of fiber scraps safely to prevent injury.

Additional Considerations

- Follow manufacturer-specific instructions for armored or specialty cables ().
- For connectors, ensure proper epoxy or adhesive is used and cured according to specifications to maintain low-loss connections ().
- Document cable identification markings, sheath numbers, and footage for future reference (). By following these procedures, fiber optic cables can be safely removed, prepared, and handled for termination or replacement while minimizing the risk of damage and ensuring optimal optical performance.

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Fiber Optic Cable Installation and Handling Instructions

Introduction Fiber optic cables can be easily damaged if they are improperly handled or installed. It is imperative that certain

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