

How to quickly strip the fiber optic cable core



Overview

Stripping Techniques For Your Fiber Optic Cable Good fiber optic stripping techniques in your cable assembly process are crucial. See best Ultimate Guide.

Key Takeaways

Proper fiber optic cable core removal and stripping involves sequentially removing the jacket, strength members, and buffer coatings using specialized tools to avoid damaging the fiber. Overview of Cable Layers

Fiber optic cables typically consist of multiple layers:

- Outer jacket (sheath): Flexible plastic protecting the cable.
- Strength members (e.g., aramid yarn): Provide tensile strength.
- Buffer coating: Protects the individual fiber.
- Optical fiber core: The glass or plastic fiber that transmits light . Each layer must be stripped individually and progressively, starting from the outer jacket down to the fiber core, to prevent damage to underlying layers .

Tools Required

- Fiber optic cable strippers: Adjustable for different jacket and buffer diameters .
- Sheath knife or ripcord: For cutting and removing the outer jacket .

- Bare Fiber Gripper (BFG1) or similar): Provides a secure hold on the fiber without causing microfractures .
- Fiber cleaver: To create a clean, perpendicular end face on the stripped fiber .
- Alcohol wipes or cleaning solution: For cleaning the stripped fiber end .

• Inspection microscope or Visual Fault Locator (VFL): To verify the cleave quality .

Step-by-Step Stripping Process

- Prepare the workspace: Ensure a clean, well-lit area free of dust and debris. Wear safety glasses to protect against fiber shards .
- Measure and mark: Determine the length of cable to strip based on termination or splicing requirements, typically 2 meters for end access or shorter for mid-span access .
- Remove the outer jacket: Use a sheath knife or jacket stripper to carefully cut around the circumference and remove the jacket without nicking the fibers .
- Expose and cut ripcord: If present, cut the ripcord to access the strength members and buffer tubes .
- Strip strength members: Carefully remove aramid yarn or other tensile fibers, avoiding contact with the optical fiber .
- Remove buffer coating: Use a fiber buffer stripper with the correct blade size for the fiber diameter. The fiber should be held securely with a gripper to prevent microfractures .
- Clean and inspect: Wipe the stripped fiber with alcohol to remove debris, then inspect the cleaved end under a microscope or VFL to ensure it is smooth and defect-free .
- Repeat for multiple fibers: If the cable contains multiple fibers, repeat the stripping, cleaning, and cleaving process for each fiber individually .

Best Practices

- Always maintain sharp stripping tools to prevent nicks or scratches on the fiber .
- Strip layers progressively; never attempt to remove multiple layers in one step .
- Handle fibers gently to avoid bending or breaking.
- Dispose of fiber scraps safely to prevent injury .
- Follow manufacturer guidelines for blade depth and tool selection based on fiber diameter . By following these steps and using the proper tools, you can achieve clean, precise fiber ends that ensure optimal signal transmission and reliable network performance.

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