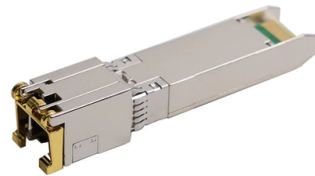


Description of Damaged Optical Cable



Article Overview

Optical cable damage refers to physical or environmental degradation that impairs the mechanical integrity or optical performance of fiber optic cables, leading to signal loss, errors, or complete network failure.

Types and Causes of Damage

Mechanical Damage: Excessive bending, twisting, or pulling can create micro-cracks or fractures in the fiber core. Bending beyond the minimum radius (typically 10× the cable diameter) or applying high tensile force can break internal fibers or deform the cable structure. Crushing from heavy equipment or tight ties can also compromise the cladding and jacket.

Connector and Splice Issues: Dust, oil, fingerprints, or scratches on connector end-faces block or scatter light, causing reflection loss and signal attenuation. Improper splicing or poorly sealed joints can allow moisture ingress, leading to corrosion and further optical loss.

Environmental Factors: Outdoor cables are vulnerable to moisture, UV exposure, temperature extremes, and rodent attacks. Water ingress can freeze and expand, damaging fibers, while thermal cycling stresses the cable materials. Rodents may chew unarmored cables, causing breaks or microbends.

Microbends and Macrobends: Microbends are small-scale distortions caused by uneven pressure or tight packing, while macrobends are larger curves exceeding the bend radius, both resulting in light leakage and signal degradation.

Symptoms and Indicators

Damage may not be immediately visible. Common indicators include:...

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