

How to store optical cables in an optical fiber reel

Article Overview

Proper placement of optical fiber cables on a reel involves careful alignment, controlled tension, and adherence to minimum bend radius to prevent damage and ensure smooth deployment.

Preparation and Inspection

Before placing the cable on the reel, inspect both the reel and the cable for any physical damage, loose flange bolts, or debris that could harm the fiber during winding. Ensure the reel is on solid, level ground and oriented according to the directional arrow on the flange to prevent unraveling or tangling during placement . Remove any protective wraps only when ready to start the operation .

Connecting the Cable

- o Secure the cable to the reel by connecting the deployment cable to the non-rotating connectors or pigtails in the drum exit port .
- o Align the cable with the slots in the drum exit cover and snap the cover into place to prevent slippage .
- o Use a tie-down block or zip ties to temporarily secure the cable at the start of the winding process .

Winding Procedure

- o Maintain proper tension: Adjust the drum brake if available to control tension and avoid over-stressing the fiber .
- o Follow the cable's natural bend direction: Avoid creating "S" shapes or crossovers, which can damage the fiber or cause signal loss .
- o Respect the minimum bend radius specified by the manufacturer to prevent microbends or fractures .
- o Wind evenly: Distribute the cable across the drum width in neat layers without overlapping or crossing fibers .
- o If using a spring rewind or cable guide, follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure smooth and controlled winding .

Safety and Handling

- o Wear personal protective equipment such as gloves and eyewear to prevent injury .
- o Avoid excessive pulling, bending, or crushing forces on the cable .
- o Do not lift the reel from the tail-flange side; use proper reel-carrying procedures or a forklift with support .
- o Keep the cable clean and free from debris during placement .

Final Checks

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- o Inspect the wound cable for crossovers, kinks, or uneven layers before storage or deployment .
- o Ensure the reel is securely fastened and the cable end is accessible for deployment.
- o Store the reel within the recommended temperature range to prevent material stress or damage . By following these steps, optical fiber cables can be safely and efficiently placed on a reel, minimizing the risk of damage and ensuring reliable performance during installation or deployment.

Discover our Fiber Optic Cable Reel Storage and Transportation guides. Find out the best transport system for storing fiber optic

Keep the drum stressed uniformly on a level and firm surface: store fiber optic cable drum/reel standing on both flanges on a level

Wind the cables around a reel to prevent tangling or knots, which can weaken the structure over time. Make sure the

In the early years of fiber optic cable storage, linemen had no reasonable way to store cable other than to simply coil it up on the line

Before storing an optical fiber, it is important to transport or move it correctly because many optical fibers are heavy.

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These guidelines can apply to all types of Optical Fiber Cables. Handling of various reels/drums is not important only in

Our fiber optic cable reels are the best in the industry. They're made out of an impact modified polymer.

The occ wire Home / Instruction Sheets / Fiber Optic Cable Storage and Handling Guidelines

The military cable reel has options to contain fiber optic cleaning kits, flip-out handle construction, a 30ft. built-in divider, connector

This document provides guidelines for storing, respooling, and shipping Berk-Tek fiber optic cables. The key points are: 1) Cables

5.1 The fiber optic fiber reel should be stored in its upright position in an area with a flat, solid surface during

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storage.

In no circumstances shall any cable boxes or reels be stored outside or in a harsh environment. Instead, these cables

Fiber Optic Cable Storage Tips Fiber optic cables are sensitive to excessive pulling, bending, twisting, crushing and other impact

Consider investing in cable reels designed specifically for fiber optic cables. These reels are

General This document provides the guidelines for handling, Transportation and storage of Optical fiber cable drums. These

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