How long should fiber optic strippers be used to strip fibers



Overview

Stripping Techniques For Your Fiber Optic Cable Assembly Process. This is the “golden rule” in stripping. Whether you use hand tools or automated strippi.

Key Takeaways

Fiber optic strippers typically remove 30–40 mm of coating, with a maximum of about 50 mm to avoid fiber damage.

Standard Strip Lengths

For most telecommunication fibers, the coating is removed over a length of 30–40 mm to expose the bare glass for splicing or connectorization. This length ensures sufficient bare fiber for proper fusion splicing or connector termination while minimizing the risk of damaging the fiber. In some cases, the required strip length may be specified by the manufacturer of the fusion splicer or connector.

Maximum Strip Length

Stripping more than approximately 50 mm at a time is generally discouraged, as longer exposed sections increase the risk of bending, nicking, or breaking the fiber. For specialty applications, such as creating fiber Bragg gratings or “window strip” operations, shorter or intermediate sections may be stripped in the middle of the fiber rather than at the end.

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Layered Cable Considerations

When working with multi-layer cables, each layer—outer jacket, aramid yarn, buffer, and acrylate coating—must be stripped individually and progressively. The stripping tool should match the specific layer diameter to avoid damaging underlying fibers. For example, a 250 µm primary buffer is typically stripped down to the 125 µm glass cladding using precision fiber strippers.

Tool Selection and Technique

Use precision fiber strippers with calibrated holes or notches for each coating layer. Avoid generic wire strippers or blades, which can nick or scratch the glass. Perform a straight axial pull without twisting to remove the coating cleanly.

Inspect the stripped fiber for nicks or scratches before cleaving or splicing.

Special Methods

For non-standard fibers or high-reliability applications, thermal or chemical strippers can be used safely, but mechanical stripping remains the most common method. Always clean the fiber after stripping to remove any residue before cleaving or connectorization. In summary, strip 30–40 mm for standard fibers, avoid exceeding 50 mm, and use the correct tool and technique for each layer to ensure fiber integrity and optimal performance.

Article Content

Stripping Techniques For Your Fiber Optic Cable Assembly Process ...

This is the “golden rule” in stripping. Whether you use hand tools or automated stripping machines, in time, the cutting edge will wear. A dull cutting edge can bend and stress the fiber. Do

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Use the fiber strippers to strip ~1" (25mm) from the end of the fiber in 3 steps, about 1/4-3/8" (6-8mm) at a time. Hold the stripper at a 45degree angle to the fiber to reduce stress on the fiber.

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With splice trays or equipment outlets, it is strongly advised to keep 1 meter (3 feet) of service slack, tucked away. Remove the outer cable sheath (jacket) with FIBERSTRIP or additional

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Use the fiber stripper to strip 1.5" (35-40mm) of the fiber. and clean the fiber. For splice or connector exercises, follow the stripping and cleaving lengths specified for that component.

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