Fiber optic cables must be delivered from the cable reel

Article Overview

Fiber optic cables must be carefully handled, tested, and unspooled from reels using proper equipment and techniques to prevent damage and ensure installation quality.

Receiving and Inspecting Cable Reels

Fiber optic cables should be delivered to the work site as close to the time of use as possible to minimize damage from weather, construction, or theft. Upon delivery, inspect the reels for visible damage, verify that the cable type, fiber count, and length match the order, and ensure all components are present. Any discrepancies or damage should be documented and reported to the supplier for replacement if necessary .

Handling and Moving Reels

Small, lightweight reels can be moved by hand, while larger reels require lifting equipment or multiple trained personnel. Use slings or chokers attached to a pipe through the reel center; never attach lifting equipment around the spooled cable itself. Forklifts should have forks longer than the drum width, and the drum should remain upright during movement. Reels should be rolled only in the direction indicated on the drum to prevent loosening or kinking of the cable .

Storage and Placement

Reels should be stored with sufficient space between them to avoid damage. On-site, reels must be chocked to prevent rolling. Keep the plastic wrap intact until deployment, and ensure reel bolts are tightened and any nails or screws are counter-sunk to avoid cable damage .

Pre-Installation Testing

Before unspooling, test the cable for continuity and loss. Use a Visual Fault Locator (VFL) to check fiber continuity and an Optical Time-Domain Reflectometer (OTDR) to verify specifications and detect damage. Testing can be done on all fibers or a representative sample if the reel appears undamaged. Record and submit OTDR traces to the project manager .

Unspooling and Deployment

Place the reel in line with the intended cable route to prevent rubbing against flanges. Seal cable ends with pre-formed or heat-shrinkable end caps. Roll the cable off the reel rather than spinning it from the end to avoid twisting, which can stress fibers. Use a swivel pulling eye when connecting pull ropes to prevent

tension-induced twisting .

Safety Precautions

Always wear protective gloves and steel-toed boots when handling reels. Assess the installation route for obstacles and ensure lifting and moving operations are performed by trained personnel using appropriate equipment . By following these procedures, fiber optic cables can be safely delivered from reels, minimizing the risk of damage and ensuring reliable performance after installation.

ntain dielectric materials such as aramid yarn. Fiber optic cables must be installed without loose lashing, twisting, or weaving along

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An optical fiber patching cabinet. The yellow cables are single-mode fibers; the orange and blue cables are

When the cable drum/reel is too heavy to lift manually, it must be moved upright by lifting the cable with a forklift or

Placing cables underground has the added benefits of reducing transmission losses, aiding planning consent and reduced risk of

About the Reel The FCR-1000 series cable reels are designed to fit Princetel"s standard FORJs and slip rings. The rotary joints are

As the world races toward faster, more reliable digital communication, Fiber optic networks stand at the

Fiber optic cables may contain multimode fibers, singlemode fibers or a combination of the two, in which case it is referred to as a

When a reel of fiber cable is shipped from the manufacturer, it is structurally sound and will protect the fiber cable

The cable must be free to squirt out of the arbor hole when placing starts. Cut off any cable as it squirts so not to hinder installation,

All Fiber Optic Cable reels should be stored upright Laying the reel on its side may cause damage to the reel flange and/or cause the

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The fiber optic cable reel is designed to protect and organize the fiber optic cable during storage and transportation.

Sometimes lightweight fiber cable may be lashed to previously installed cables such as older copper phone cables or CATV hardline

After fiber optic cables are installed, spliced and terminated, they must be tested. For every fiber optic

Avoid costly fiber optic installation errors. Learn the top 10 things NOT to do with fiber optic

Generally, optical cable manufacturers will do a test before the product leaves the factory,

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