

Fiber Cleaning & Inspection Checklist



A field-ready workflow for inspecting and cleaning fiber optic connectors.

1 GATHER YOUR KIT

- ☐ Inspection microscope / video probe (200x+)
- ☐ Reel cleaner — female and male
- ☐ Push-style cleaner
- ☐ Cleaning sticks (2.5 mm & 1.25 mm)
- ☐ Optical grade cleaning fluid (e.g., AFL FCC2, 99% pure electronic-grade IPA)
- ☐ Lint-free wipes
- ☐ Dry compressed air
- ☐ Fine pinhole brush

2 INSPECT (200x+)

- ☐ Inspect every connector before connecting — even new, factory-terminated ones
- ☐ Check core and cladding against IEC 61300-3-35
- ☐ Pass: connect. Fail: Following step 3

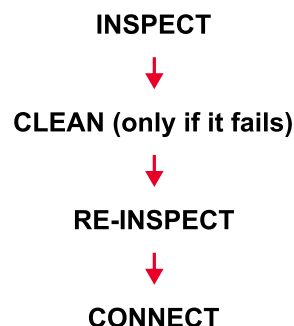
3 CLEAN — LEAST AGGRESSIVE FIRST

- ☐ Dry clean first (loose dust and airborne particles)
- ☐ Wet clean, wet-to-dry, for oils and fingerprints
- ☐ Non-contact air only to dislodge loose particles
- ☐ Re-inspect after every cleaning step

4 BY CONNECTOR TYPE

- ☐ Single-fiber (LC/SC/FC/ST): dry, then wet; in a bulkhead, rotate cleaning stick 6–10×, then dry 2–3×
- ☐ MTP/MPO end-face: reel cleaner; wipe perpendicular to the fiber array
- ☐ MTP/MPO in bulkhead: cleaning stick + push-style cleaner; clean the pins first
- ☐ Pins & pinholes: last resort — experienced technicians only

THE GOLDEN RULE



SAFETY FIRST

Confirm the laser source is OFF and disconnected before inspecting. Invisible radiation can cause permanent eye damage.

AVOID THESE MISTAKES

- ✗ Skipping inspection
- ✗ Drugstore (low-purity) IPA
- ✗ Back-and-forth wiping
- ✗ Touching end-faces with bare fingers
- ✗ Over-wetting or skipping the dry step
- ✗ Ignoring the bulkhead or port
- ✗ Reusing sticks, wipes, or reel windows