

Cleaning end-faces on loose connectors or patch cords

Using Fluke Networks' Fiber Optic Cleaning Card:

1. Peel cover from an unused "N"-shaped cleaning zone.
2. For best results, apply a minimal amount of solvent from the Solvent Pen to the first corner of the "N." Avoid isopropyl alcohol (IPA).
3. Place the end-face perpendicular to the card in the first corner of the unused "N".
4. Swipe through the "N" shape using gentle pressure moving from wet to dry.
5. Always check the end-face with a fiber microscope before insertion.
6. If necessary, repeat the cleaning process from step #1 using another unused "N." Never swipe over the same area twice.

Using Fluke Networks' Fiber Optic Cleaning Cube:

1. Pull out a clean wipe and lay it over the foam platen.
2. For best results, apply a minimal amount of solvent from the Solvent Pen. A 1 cm diameter spot is sufficient. Avoid isopropyl alcohol (IPA).
3. Place the end-face perpendicular to the cube in the wet spot.
4. Swipe the end-face from the wet spot into a dry area using gentle pressure.
5. Always check the end-face with a fiber microscope before insertion.
6. If necessary, repeat the cleaning process on a clean portion of the wipe. Each wipe can clean up to four end-faces. Never swipe over the same area twice.

Cleaning end-faces behind bulkheads and inside equipment

Using Fluke Networks' Fiber Optic Swabs:

1. Select the swab with the correct diameter to fit inside the port to be cleaned. 2.5 mm Fiber Optic Swabs fit SC, ST, and all other 2.5 mm diameter ports. 1.25 mm Fiber Optic Swabs fit LC and MU ports.
2. Using the Fiber Optic Cleaning Cube or Card, apply some solvent from the Solvent Pen to a wipe. Avoid isopropyl alcohol (IPA).
3. Touch the swab to the wet spot on the wipe for 3 seconds to draw a minimal amount of solvent. Touching the swab directly to the Solvent Pen will likely result in excess solvent.
4. Insert the damp swab into the port and turn several times, applying gentle pressure.
5. Follow the damp swab with a dry one, using the same procedure to remove any remaining solvent from the end-face and alignment sleeve.
6. Always check the end-face with a fiber microscope before insertion.
7. If necessary, repeat the cleaning process with fresh swabs.

**Before cleaning ports on equipment,
check the manufacturer's instructions*

For more information on fiber optic
cleaning practices, visit
www.flukenetworks.com/fibercare.

See the full range of fiber optic solutions
at www.flukenetworks.com



Cleaning Fiber Optic Connectors Instruction Sheet

Dirty end-faces are the leading cause of fiber failures. In a survey of installers and private network owners commissioned by Fluke Networks, dirty end-faces were the #1 cause of fiber failure for both groups. Because 85% of all fiber failures are due to contaminated end-faces, it is imperative to inspect and, if necessary, clean end-faces every time they are mated. This note is intended to provide information and procedures for proper fiber end-face cleaning.

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Do

Check end-faces before every mating; protective caps do not keep end-faces clean.

Check both sides of every connection as contamination can migrate upon physical contact.

Always ensure all solvent is removed from end-faces before mating.

Always use lint-free wiping material when cleaning.

Always use solvent when cleaning, as dry cleaning can cause scratches or generate static which draws more dust.

Don't

Don't wait until you have a problem as mated contamination can cause permanent damage.

Don't use canned air as it does not work on smaller particles or oils, can blow larger particles around and can contaminate the end-face with propellants.

Don't ever touch the end-face as it will leave body oil residue.

Don't allow anything to ever touch the end-face or leave it exposed to dust.

Don't use isopropyl alcohol (IPA) as it is less effective on common contaminants and can leave behind a residue inside ports. Specialized solvents such as Fluke Networks' Solvent Pen are far superior.