

# Re: Cat 5 Install Pricing

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.repair/2008-07/msg00005.html>

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- *From:* "Michael A. Terrell" <[mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:mike.terrell@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 30 Jun 2008 22:56:26 -0400
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Michael Kennedy wrote:

Hi everyone, I know this is a bit off topic, but I don't know a good group to ask this in.

I've done PC repair work as a side business on the weekends for years now and recently I have a customer that wants me to install a network in a small dentist office. It is a new building and I will be installing 10 computers. There will be a computer at all 6 dental chairs one at the x-ray machine and 3 in the receptionist area. The office is not large, about 50 feet by 30 feet and the conduit and boxes are installed for the cable. I just have to pull the conduit and tack it up above the dropped ceiling and of course add connectors to the ends.

My question is how much should I charge for pulling and installing cat 5 cable in this situation. I have been given all sorts of suggestions from \$20/ft to \$75 per cable drop. \$20 per foot seems outrageous to me, but that's why I'm asking.

TIA.

Mike

Re: Cat 5 Install Pricing

"ABLE\_1" <royboynospam@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:yZudnTSgk8zoDvTVnZ2dnUVZ\\_uidnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:yZudnTSgk8zoDvTVnZ2dnUVZ_uidnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Hello,

I just finished a job today with 10 drops in a much smaller space. 280 feet of wire. Drop ceiling. Surface mount wiremold with boxes. 12 port patch panel. Panduit jacks. Calculated 6 hours labor. Worked out to be \$72/drop in a T&M job.

If I used your \$20/ft it would have been \$5600.00 which would have been real nice. Generally I have heard that per drop prices to be \$125 to \$150 per. But have found that I am very happy with T&M and will make good money. It depends on your overhead and skills.

If you are happy with your hourly rate and markup work it out that way. Just do the math. If conduit is already installed as you say, it sounds like you have a very sweet job.

Good luck.

Les

Thanks, I think I will just do it hourly and work out the estimate like that. I'm a little unsure how long each drop will take, probably about an hour each... Seems easier to just bill flat rate though, like 75 per drop.

If you are working by yourself and providing th materials, 75 per drop is in the ballpark for your area. If they let Emabraq (formerly Sprint) do it, they were charging three times that rate ten years ago. The wall plates and connectors aren't cheap, and if you have to pass through any firewall, you'll need plenum rated wire. If you were closer, I could probably dig up enough Cat5 wire that was leftover form other jobs You have a Home Depot near you. They carry Leviton plates & jacks. You'll probably need a 100' box of cable, 20 jacks and an assortment of wall plates. Leviton makes some that hold six jacks, and can be used for a small patch panel. Use the plastic surface mount Wiremold type boxes near the router/switch/server. HD also carries ready made Cat5 patch cables. Don't try to make your own. The connectors for stranded wire are different from solid wire, and will not hold properly. Don't use solid wire for patch cables, it won't hold up for long.

[http://www.leviton.com/OA\\_HTML/ibeCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=14237&minisite=10028](http://www.leviton.com/OA_HTML/ibeCCtpSctDspRte.jsp?section=14237&minisite=10028)

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BTW, HD sells a 25 pack of Cat5E connectors for less than two 10 packs.

If you aren't in a big hurry, MPJA had some Leviton surplus, in Miami.

<<http://www.mpja.com/products.asp?dept=223>>

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<http://improve-usenet.org/index.html>

If you have broadband, your ISP may have a NNTP news server included in your account: <http://www.usenettools.net/ISP.htm>

Sporadic E is the Earth's aluminum foil beanie for the 'global warming' sheep.

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