
INSPECTION AND CLEANING OF OPTICAL CONNECTORS

Why is it important to clean optical connectors before use?

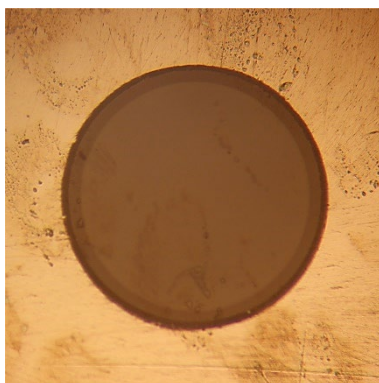
It is important to systematically inspect the surfaces of the connectors' ferrules before connecting them. Indeed, pollutants/contaminants (dust, oil particles...) can be deposited and cause strong attenuation of the signal, or in the worst case, damage the connector in an irreversible way, in particular in case of use with a power laser.

Some precautions to observe

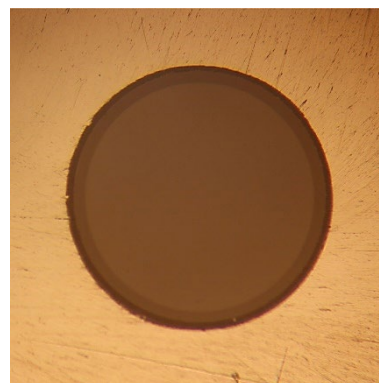
- Always clean the end-face of the fiber connectors, even if they were protected by protective caps, because they can be a major source of contamination, especially if not stored in a clean environment.
- Never touch the end-face of the fiber connectors - natural body oil can be a major cause of contamination.
- Never use a wet cleaning method without a way of dry cleaning immediately afterwards - the wet process can leave a harmful residue that is hard to remove when it dries.
- Never re-use any tissue, as it may reintroduce dirt.

Standard optical connectors

Before and after comparison



a. Contaminated standard connector



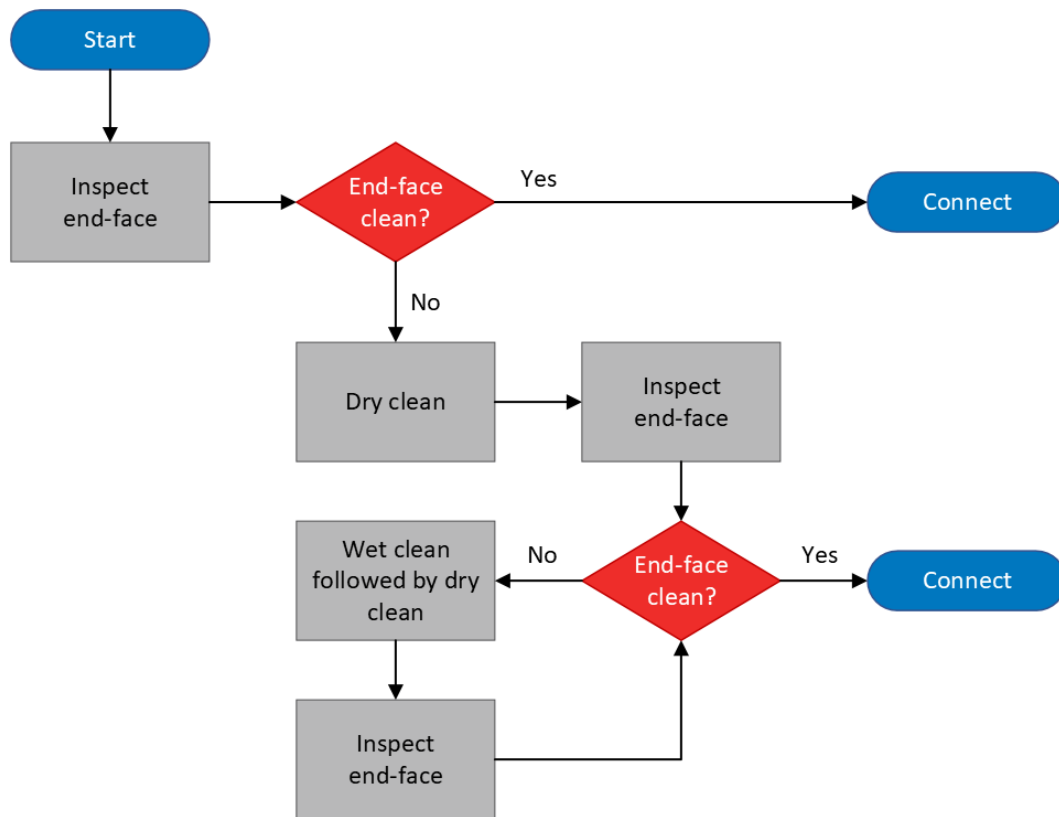
b. Clean standard connector

Required tools

- Inspection tool: fiberscope.
- Dry cleaning tools: Texwipe-type lint-free cloths.
- Wet cleaning tools: Isopropyl Alcohol Pre-Moistened Towelette.

Cleaning process

Follow the process described below carefully to achieve optimum results.

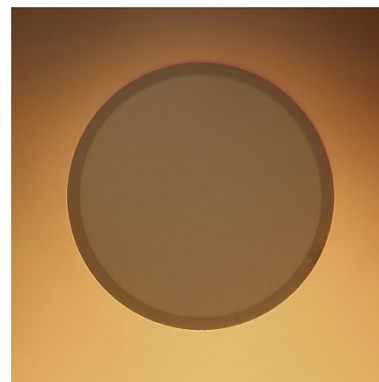


Power free-standing connectors

Before and after comparison



c. Contaminated free-standing connector



d. Clean free-standing connector

Required tools

- Inspection tool: fiberscope.
- Dry cleaning tools: dry air blast.
- Wet cleaning tools: no.

Cleaning process

The cleaning of the power patchcords is done by dry air blowing only.