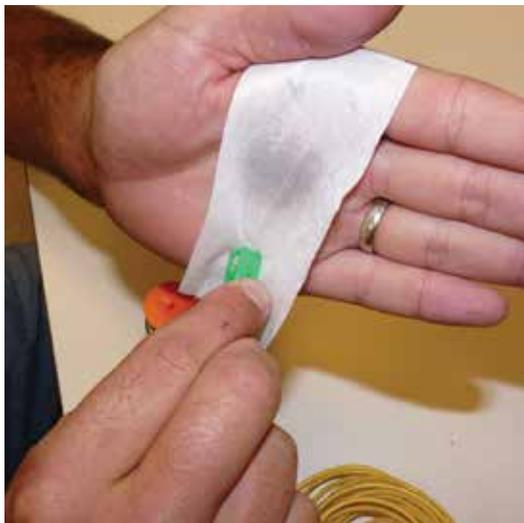


Cheap Paper Wipes Cause Expensive Fiber Network Problems

With fiber optic data rates increasing, the need to clean fiber end-faces properly has never been more urgent. But many technicians clean fiber end-faces with inexpensive paper wipes. As it turns out, that selection is sub-optimal.

“Cheap wipes are worth everything you pay for them,” notes Sticklers® product manager Brian Teague. “They cause far more problems than they solve.” There are five major sources of contamination from cheap paper wipes:



Wet-dry cleaning of connectors, using a fresh, high-modulus wipe, will deliver the most reliable fiber network at the lowest possible cost.

Wet-dry cleaning of connectors, using a fresh, high-modulus wipe, will deliver the most reliable fiber network at the lowest possible cost. Wipes, some even 23x 23cm (9x9 inches) to be economical. This is a mistake. “Wipes should never be re-used,” says MicroCare Senior VP Jay Tourigny. “There will be contamination on the wipes, fingerprint oils, dust from the workbench and shredded fibers from prior cleanings.” The best strategy is to select smaller, single-use disposable wipes.

Glues in the Paper. Since many wipes are made with mechanically weak fibers they are reinforced with glue (called “binders”). To a connector, glue is as sharp-edged and rock-hard as sandpaper. Scraping a connector across these surfaces can result in scratched end-faces requiring re-polishing.

Dissolved Residues. Glues also will be dissolved by solvents if “wet-dry” cleaning is used. The glues themselves then will be deposited on the end-faces. Select

About MicroCare

MicroCare Corp. is an industry-leading manufacturer of high-performance products used for critical cleaning, coating and lubrication. These products and tools improve quality, reduce operating costs and help protect the environment. Since 1983 MicroCare has helped clients improve their processes in industries as diverse as electronics assembly, telecommunications, aerospace and transportation, medical devices and other precision cleaning applications. MicroCare is constantly innovating new cleaning products and processes to help customers reduce costs and improve quality.

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a quality wipe made without glues or binders, eliminating the source of contamination. Look for the term “hydroentangled” for the best quality wipes.

Packaging. Cheap wipes are sold in cardboard packaging that will damage low-modulus wipes, creating lint. Cardboard also will deposit fibers on to the wipe and can generate a static charge. A quality wipe will have a quality package protecting the wipe during shipping, storage and use.

In conclusion, operators should not use cheap paper wipes because they will degrade network performance. A cheap price does not reflect the real cost of downtime, repair visits or sluggish networks. Select wipes that are convenient, consistent, effective, reliable and affordable.



The Stickers FTTH Cleaning Kit was an award-winning entry at the 2015 “Diamond Technology Review” sponsored by Broadband Technology Report (BTR) journal.”

Stickers® Cleaners Win Two More Awards

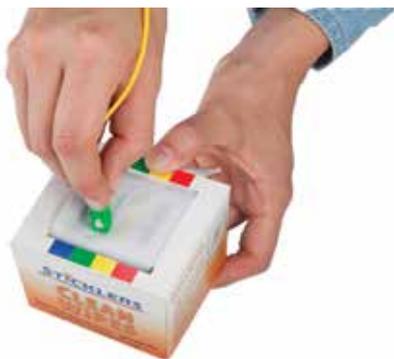
The Stickers® family of fiber optic cleaning have won two prestigious industry awards this month:

Identifying the top new innovations in the industry, the Stickers® “FTTH Fiber Optic Cleaning Kit” won a “Diamond Technology Review” award from the Broadband Technology Report (BTR) journal. This renowned program, now in its tenth year, ranks new products on six criteria. The Stickers® products were selected from a roster of 47 products submitted by 34 companies.

The Stickers® CleanStixx™ EB connector cleaning sticks, engineered for expanded beam connectors, also were recognized with a prestigious “Innovators Awards” from Cabling Installation and Maintenance Magazine. Expanded beam connectors are an enabling technology for reliable optical networking in harsh environments. The Stickers® tools deliver perfectly clean fiber connectors even in difficult in-the-field conditions.



Products Mentioned In This Newsletter



The Stickers® fiber optic cleaning products are the industry’s most complete set of cleaning tools. The Stickers® “FTTH Fiber Optic Cleaning Kit” includes everything necessary to clean fiber networks quickly, reliably and inexpensively. Each kit contains “push-to-clean” CleanClicker® connector cleaners along with cleaning fluids, high-modulus lint-free wipes and other end-face cleaners. The Stickers® cleaners are at the forefront of the industry with a technology that delivers perfectly clean fiber connectors in any application.

Some vendors offer packaging that make it easy to clean without putting fingerprints on the wipes.