

# How to Clean Fiber Optic Assembly End Faces >

Cleaning fiber optic assembly end faces is a relatively simple process, but it must be performed properly and with care to avoid damaging the end faces. The cleaning process requires acetone or IPA (Isopropyl Alcohol—semiconductor grade, or better) and a cleanroom swab.

To begin the process, remove the protective endcap and place it in a clean container to prevent contamination if it is to be reused. Inspect the fiber end face, under magnification, to determine if dirt or debris is present. If contamination is found, begin the cleaning process outlined below:

- 1 Dip the swab in cleaning solvent
- 2 Lightly wipe the fiber end face in one direction (single pass) with the solvent-moistened swab, rotate the swab to expose a new cleaning surface, and gently wipe again. (To prevent scratches on the fiber during cleaning, never reuse a swab or wipe more than a single pass in one direction. Overly aggressive cleaning with a clean swab or other medium can also result in fiber scratches.)
- 3 Re-inspect the connector
- 4 Repeat the process as necessary to achieve the required cleanliness

