



Alternative Jacket™ solutions

# Alternative Jacket™ solution helps protect outside plant cable products

Damage to aerial cables from squirrels is a challenging issue for system operators. This damage can negatively impact network integrity and performance and even cause service outages. Solutions for protecting cable in underground applications, such as armored cables or cable in conduit, have protected outside plant for many years; however, there have been limited offerings to protect the aerial plant.

CommScope has developed an Alternative Jacket™ (AJ) that has proven to reduce or even eliminate damage from rodent chewing in high-risk locations.

## Understanding the issue

Like all rodents, squirrels have four incisors (cutting teeth) that grow continuously throughout their life. Squirrels are able to keep these incisors short by wearing them down through gnawing on durable material. Unfortunately, cable components meet this need perfectly.

Once this was understood, CommScope developed Alternative Jacket to help prevent rodent damage.



## What is Alternative Jacket?

CommScope's patented Alternative Jacket material incorporates nontoxic, food-grade additives that are extremely repulsive to the rodents' sense of taste and smell. Field tests have indicated that, once chewing begins, the culprit finds the experience unpleasant and will retreat before the point of cable damage.

The Alternative Jacket material construction is not rodent proof, but has been effective in reducing chewing. Standard product warranties apply and CommScope's warranty does not cover damage caused by rodents.

## Handling precautions

Some people may show sensitivity to the additives in AJ, resulting in mild skin reaction. CommScope recommends the use of gloves while handling and working with Alternative Jacket cables, and thoroughly washing hands with soap and water after working with the cable. Avoid contact with eyes and take normal precautions, including the use of safety glasses, when preparing cable.

CommScope's Alternative Jacket material can be utilized for fiber-optic cable, drop cables and coaxial cables. A guide to the use of appropriate construction practices is available on [www.commscope.com](http://www.commscope.com).

### Alternative Jacket fiber-optic cable



### Alternative Jacket trunk and distribution cable



### Alternative Jacket drop cable



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