

5 Easy Tricks to Boost Your Home Wi-Fi

Nothing is more frustrating than when a home wireless network stops running smoothly. Is your signal weak or slow? Does your connection often drop? Try these easy tricks to boost your wireless router's range and speed:

1. Update your technology.

Buy a new router if it doesn't support the latest wireless-N standard or make sure your older router is set to N-only mode. Make sure your computer has the latest driver for your router and visit your router manufacturer's website to see if you've missed a firmware upgrade.

2. Move your router to a central location.

Place your router on a high location, away from walls and obstructions, such as on top of a cabinet.

3. Change the channel of your router.

If your router doesn't feature automatic channel selection, tune into a channel with less interference. Consult your router's manual for quick assistance in changing router channels.

4. Reduce interference from other appliances.

Put some extra distance between your router and interfering appliances, such as microwaves, cordless phones, and baby monitors.

5. Secure your wireless network.

If your network is open, neighbors can piggyback on to it to do their Internet surfing — and that will really slow you down. Worse, hackers can exploit your unsecured network and snoop for personal data. Be sure to use the latest WPA2 encryption and create a strong password.