

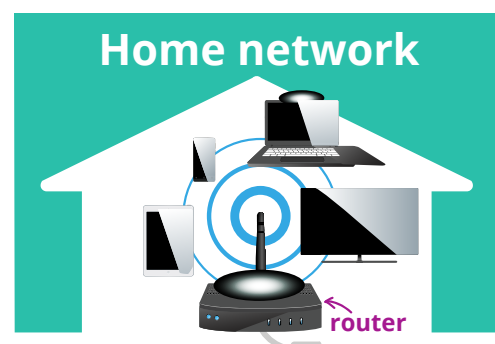
# Home networks

A home network lets you use the internet at home and share that internet connection among several devices.

## What is a home network?

A **home network** is a term used to describe either a wireless or cabled internet connection in your home.

- You access the internet either wirelessly via your home Wi-Fi or, for some devices, by using a cable.
- You need a device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, mobile phone or smart TV to connect to your home network and the internet.



A range of devices can connect to the internet using your home network

## What do I need for a home network?

For a home network, you need an internet connection, an internet account and some special equipment.

- Choosing an internet provider is similar to choosing a phone or electricity provider.
- An internet provider will usually provide you with the necessary equipment to get you connected to the internet. Internet providers are sometimes called **internet service providers**, or **ISPs** for short.
- Your home connects to the internet with cable, wireless or satellite equipment provided by your ISP.
- In your home, the internet cable connects to a special box called a **router**. This is sometimes called a **modem** or **gateway**. For most nbn connections, there will be a separate nbn box that connects to the internet, and your router and home phone will connect to the nbn box instead.
- The router shares the internet with all your devices to create a **home network**.

# Home networks

## How do I connect to my home network over Wi-Fi?

The Wi-Fi router that comes with your internet connection will have a name and a password. You enter these into each device you want to join to your home network. Here are the main steps:

1. You will need the name of your Wi-Fi network – you can usually find this printed on the bottom of the router or on the card your ISP gave you.
2. In your device's Wi-Fi settings, find that network name and click on it or tap it. You will see a **Password** box.
3. You will also find this Wi-Fi network password printed on the bottom of the router or the card.
4. Enter that into the **Password** box. Pay special attention to upper and lowercase letters, and don't confuse zeros with Os.
5. Your device will remember the password and connect automatically to the network in the future.
6. If you don't want the device to do that, tap the connection in **Settings** and click or tap **Forget this network**.

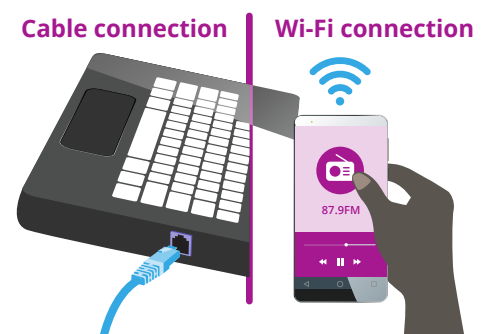


A Wi-Fi home networks requires a password

## How do I connect to my home network with a cable?

Some devices need to connect to your home network with a cable, instead of Wi-Fi. With a cable connection, you can't move your device around after connecting it to a router.

- Many devices, such as phones and tablets, can only be connected to a Wi-Fi network. But desktop computers, larger laptops and smart TVs can usually be connected by cable.
- The cable has a squarish plug on each end. It's called a **networking** cable, or **Ethernet** cable, or **RJ45** cable.
- To connect a device, plug one end of a networking cable into the special socket on the device, and the other end into a similar socket (also called a networking port) on the router.
- You do not need to choose a network or enter a password if your device is connected by cable.



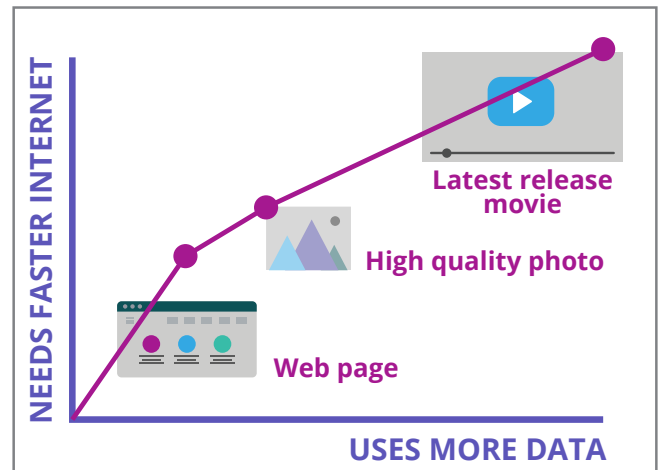
Connect to the internet using Wi-Fi or cable connection

# Home networks

## Understanding internet speeds on your home network

When it comes to network speed, faster is usually better.

- The speed of your connection to the internet determines how the internet will perform for you.
- Everything you read or look at from the internet is data that comes through your connection.
- Content, such as text, needs much less data to display than photos. Photos, in turn, need less data than music, and music usually needs less data than videos.
- A faster internet connection displays web pages faster.
- A slow connection may make videos stop and start.
- If you only read articles, then you probably don't need the fastest internet.
- Sometimes the internet slows down because many people in your area, or your home, are using it at the same time.



Some types of content use more data than others

## What is the nbn?

The nbn is designed to deliver fast, reliable internet and phone services throughout most of Australia.

- The national **broadband network (nbn™)** is upgrading the existing phone and internet infrastructure to meet the increasing demands of Australian households and businesses.
- With fast internet, you can view video more reliably, have photos display more quickly, and generally get faster performance for everything you do on the internet.
- The nbn is already available to most homes in Australia, and most of the rest the country will have access within a year or two.



The national broadband network (nbn) aims to deliver fast, reliable internet

# Home networks

- You can find out if the nbn services in your area by typing your address into the <https://nbn.com.au> website.
- To connect your home on the nbn, you will need an nbn internet plan and some new equipment, which will be provided by your plan provider.
- The nbn will eventually replace all existing telephone wires, so you will be making phone calls over the internet.

## Preparing for a new nbn plan

If you're ready to switch to nbn, there are a few things to consider.

- You can purchase an nbn plan from an ISP.
- It's worth shopping around because some ISPs offer better prices than others, or packages that are better suited to your needs.
- There are three types of nbn plans you can choose from: for phone only, for internet only, or for phone and internet bundled together.
- Home phone services provided over the nbn are vulnerable to power outages. You should discuss options with your ISP, including battery backup.
- It is important **register** any medical or fire alarms or other emergency equipment with the nbn at <https://www.nbnco.com.au/learn/device-compatibility>. You can also check to make sure those devices will work with the nbn.



There are different internet plans to suit your need

## What if my home network can't connect to the internet?

Sometimes things can go wrong, but there are steps you can take to get back online.

- If you find your devices will no longer load web pages, you may have lost your internet connection.
- Try switching off your router, wait a minute then switch it back on. Give it a few minutes to start up. This fixes most problems as it allows the router to reset itself.
- When it's working properly, most of the indicator lights on the front will glow green.
- If that doesn't work, however, call your ISP's help line. Note down the model number of the router before you do and follow their instructions.