

Choosing a data plan

Here are some helpful tips for choosing a home internet or mobile data plan.

Your data allowance

A data plan is part of your home and mobile internet service. It includes a data allowance or quota, which is the maximum amount of data you can use in one month for the set monthly fee.

- Data is a way to measure how much you use the internet.
- Data is measured in gigabytes (GB). More data costs more and lets you do more online.
- A home internet plan usually allows more data for less cost than a mobile internet plan.
- You can be charged extra if you use more data than your monthly allowance, but not less if you use less.

Mobile internet plans		
S	M	L
2GB	6GB	9GB
\$30	\$40	\$50

Home internet plans		
S	M	L
200GB	500GB	1000GB
\$50	\$80	\$100

Home and mobile internet plans provide a set amount of data to use each month

Types of data plans

There are different types of data plan for home and mobile internet. A **pre-paid** plan means you pay each time you want more data, and a **contract** plan means you commit to monthly payments for an agreed time.

A contract or post-paid data plan: for home and mobile internet

Contract data plans are available for mobile data and home internet services.

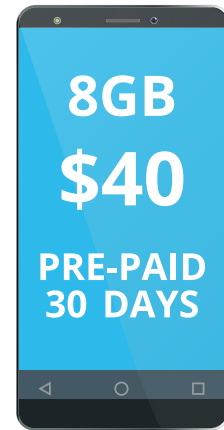
- You can sign-up for 12 or 24 months, but penalty charges may apply if you stop the service before the end of the contract period.
- Your contract home data plan normally includes a home network box called a **router**.
- Plans can include a high-value mobile phone for a mobile internet service. The plan may also be offered without a phone, so you can use one you already own.
- The data allowance is usually more generous compared to a pre-paid service.
- You normally pay the monthly charge after using up the data, or when the data expires (usually one month). For that reason, **contract** plans are sometimes call **post-paid plans**.

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A pre-paid data plan: for mobile internet only

A pre-paid data plan is quite common for mobile internet services.

- You don't need to sign up for a fixed period of time, so you can stop the service or restart it whenever you wish.
- The included mobile phone may be of lower value, compared to models offered with a contract plan. The plan may also be offered without a mobile phone, so you can use a phone you already own with the data plan.
- The data allowance is usually smaller than on a contract or post-paid plan.
- You pay before you can use the data, which is why it is known as a **pre-paid data plan**.



A prepaid plan lets you start and stop the service when you want

Which data plan should I choose?

Internet providers offer different data plans at different prices. It pays to research the different providers to see who might offer the best deal for you.

- Finding the right home or mobile data plan depends on what you want to mostly use the internet for.
- Most plans are divided into Small, Medium, Large and Extra Large. The size refers to how much data is included in the allowance.
- Comparison websites such as iselect.com.au and whistelout.com.au can help you find a deal on a mobile or home internet plan.
- Data plans can be purchased from an internet or mobile phone provider. You can buy one from a shop, over the internet, or by phone.

Home Internet Plans		
S	M	L
\$50 a month	\$80 a month	\$100 a month
200GB data	500GB data	1000GB data

Choose a plan based on how much you use the internet

Choosing a data plan

Small data plans

As the name suggests, these plans provide small amounts of data. These are the cheapest, and the best if you:

- Rarely use the internet.
- Mostly just read simple web pages.
- Don't share photos.
- Rarely watch internet TV or movies.

Medium data plans

Depending on your internet provider, a medium plan can offer a good balance between cost and data, and is best for people who:

- Use the internet every day.
- Like to share photos with friends and family.
- Watch a bit of internet TV or one or two movies a month.
- Have to share with two or three people in the household.

Large and Extra-large plans

These are the most expensive plans and are usually aimed at people who work over the internet or do almost everything online. These plans are best if you:

- Watch internet TV every day.
- Like watching movies.
- Have to share with lots of other people in the house.
- Don't want to ever worry about using up all your data!

If you are still unsure about how much data you need, you can always start with a small data plan and increase to a medium or larger data plan once you've had time to determine how much data you actually use. It is always easier to increase your data plan than try to change a larger plan to a smaller data plan.



Choose a small data plan if don't use the internet much



A large amount of data lets you use the internet a lot