

Managing your data

Here are some top tips for saving money on your home and mobile data plan, plus ways to avoid extra charges.

Tracking how much data you use

Being aware of how much data you use each month lets you adjust your internet data plan, and maybe save some money. For instance, if you bought a large plan, but realise you only use a small amount of data, you may change to a cheaper plan that has less data.

You can see how much data you've used each month by using a tool from your internet service provider.

- Home internet plans usually offer a special website to visit, where you can monitor your data use.
- Mobile phones can install a special app to monitor data and provide alerts when you are approaching your data limit. Many phone providers pre-install this app on your phone for you.
- These tools don't always show up-to-the-minute data use. They may lag a day behind, so may not be 100% accurate.

Your data use



Special tools help you check your home and mobile data use

How can I switch my mobile phone from mobile data to Wi-Fi?

Using a mobile phone's Wi-Fi feature means it won't take data from the mobile data network. That means any web browsing or other activities you do on your mobile phone won't count against your mobile data allowance.

To use your mobile phone's Wi-Fi feature:

- Enable Wi-Fi in your phone settings.
- Select your home Wi-Fi network and enter the password (your password can normally be found underneath your router box or on a special card given to you by the internet provider).
- Now each time you come home, the phone will connect to the Wi-Fi automatically.

Managing your data

What happens if I use too much data?

Home and mobile internet plans provide a set amount of data each month. The bigger the monthly data allowance, the more expensive the plan.

The penalty for using more data than your data plan allows varies depending on your provider and also whether it's a mobile data account or home internet account.



Your internet may be slowed if you go over your home data allowance

Using too much data on home internet

- Your connection will most likely be slowed, or **shaped**. A slow internet connection means you may not be able to play video from the internet, and pages will be slow to appear on your device.
- Your usual internet speed will return when your billing cycle resets.

‘A slow internet connection means you may not be able to play video from the internet, and pages will be slow to appear.’

Using too much data on mobile internet

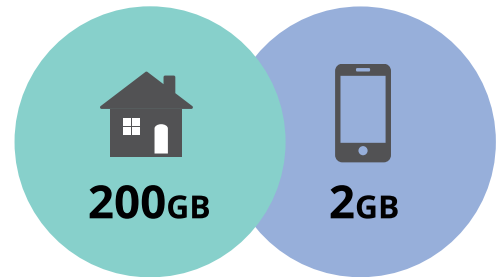
- If you have a **pre-paid** mobile data plan, you will not have mobile internet on your phone until you buy more data. (You can, however, still access the internet using Wi-Fi and your phone will still be able to make and receive calls.)
- If you have a **contract** (or post-paid) mobile data plan, you will most likely have to pay more for the extra data you used. The amount could be a few dollars, or it could get very costly, depending on your provider.

Managing your data

How can I save money by managing my data?

Because a mobile phone can use both Wi-Fi and mobile data, you can take advantage of this to limit the cost of your mobile data.

- If you are at home most of the time, and your phone is on Wi-Fi, then you will probably only need a very small mobile data plan.
- If you are always out and about, you can keep an eye on your data use via a special program called an app. Some phones come with an app installed, or you can download this type of app from the internet once you have a plan in place.
- Avoid data-hungry activities like uploading photos or watching movies while out and about. Do these at home when the phone is back on Wi-Fi.
- TOP TIP: Home internet plans offer much more data than mobile plans and for less money. A big home internet data plan plus a small mobile plan is usually cheaper than just a big mobile data plan.

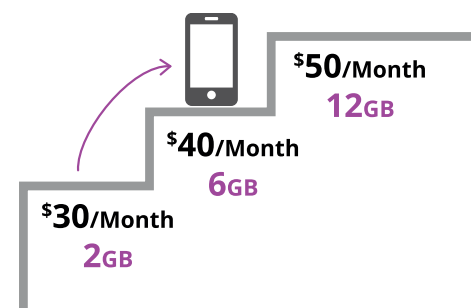


A large home and small mobile plan is a good way to balance data costs

Data-saving checklist

There is a lot to remember if you want to save money on data. Here's a summary of what you can do:

- Mobile data is more expensive than home internet data, so connect your mobile devices to Wi-Fi when at home and use mobile data only when out and about.
- Keep track of your data to avoid using more than your allowance, and to help you decide what kind of data plan you need.
- Changing up to a more expensive data plan is usually free.
- Changing down to a cheaper data plan usually involves paying a penalty, unless it is a pre-paid plan.
- You can also use free Wi-Fi from libraries, cafes or shopping centres when you are out and about. Keep in mind that public Wi-Fi is less secure than your home Wi-Fi network, so don't use it for anything private or which requires your personal information or passwords.



Upgrade your plan if you use more data than expected