



HOME INTERNET GUIDE: PICKING THE RIGHT INTERNET PLAN

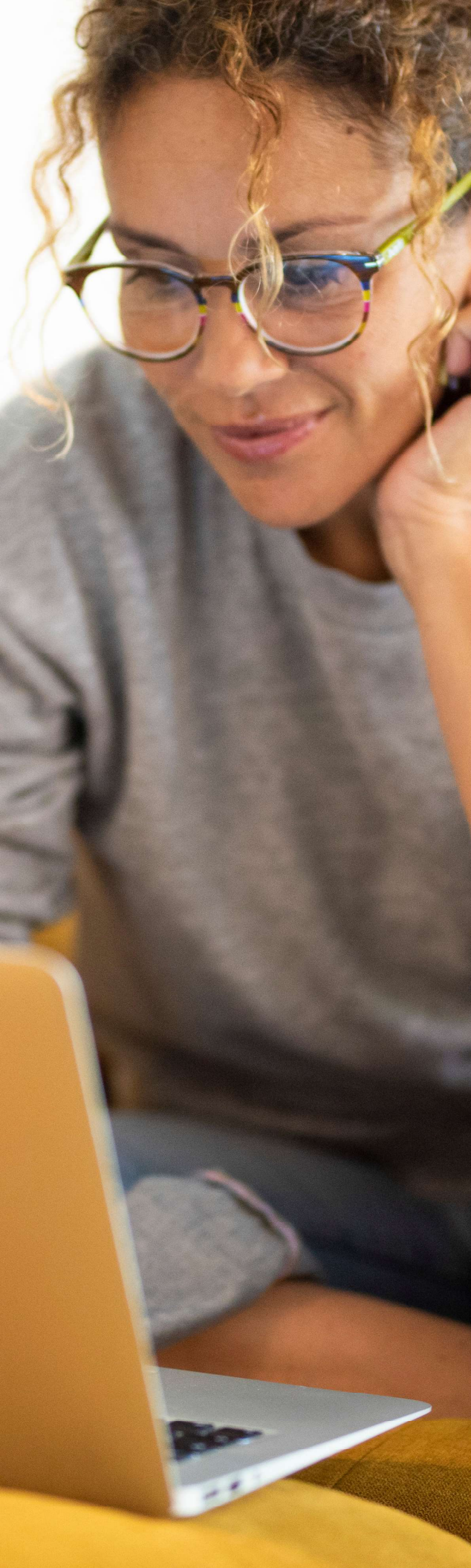


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Overview

A great internet experience includes an affordable plan, the right equipment, and local support to keep your home connected, productive, and satisfied.

The most common question we hear from people as they are trying to decide what plan to go with is "How do I determine the right plan for my home?"

This guide will help you determine the right internet speed you need for your home by looking at a few factors such as:



The number of devices: These are the devices you have that require an internet connection.



Online activities: Whether you are working, playing, or streaming from home each activity requires a certain amount of bandwidth.



The number of users: A household with multiple people using the internet simultaneously will require higher speeds than a single-person household.





02. *Number of Devices in Your Home*

To determine the number of devices in your home, you can simply count how many devices you have that require an internet connection. If you have a lot of devices, you may want to consider upgrading to a higher-speed internet plan to ensure that all of your devices can connect to the internet at the same time without experiencing slow speeds or connection issues.

It's also important to keep in mind that some devices may consume more bandwidth than others. For example, streaming video in high definition will require more bandwidth than browsing the web or checking email. So, if you have multiple devices that will be streaming video simultaneously, you may need a higher speed internet plan than if you only have a few devices that will be used for basic activities. We have provided a chart on the next page to help you determine your internet usage.



Types of Devices and Bandwidth Usage

<p>Smartphones and Tablets: <i>(1 to 7 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Basic web browsing and email typically use less than 1 Mbps of bandwidth, while streaming video can use anywhere from 1 to 7 Mbps depending on the video quality.</p>
<p>Laptops and Desktop Computers: <i>(1 to 10 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Basic web browsing and email typically use less than 1 Mbps of bandwidth, while video conferencing or streaming video can use anywhere from 1 to 10 Mbps depending on the video quality.</p>
<p>Smart TVs and Streaming Devices: <i>(3 to 25 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Streaming video typically uses anywhere from 3 to 25 Mbps depending on the video quality. <i>(Apple TV, Roku, Chromecast, Fire TV Stick, etc)</i></p>
<p>Gaming Consoles: <i>(3 to 6 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Online gaming typically uses around 3 to 6 Mbps of bandwidth, while downloading game updates or patches can use much more bandwidth. <i>(Xbox, PlayStation, Switch, etc)</i></p>
<p>Smart Thermostats: <i>(1 to 2 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Smart thermostats typically require a minimum internet speed of 1-2 Mbps and use an average of 50-300 MB of data per month for basic functionality, including software updates and usage reporting.</p>
<p>Home Security Cameras: <i>(1 to 10 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Smart home security cameras typically require a minimum internet speed of 2-4 Mbps for continuous video streaming in standard definition (SD) and a minimum internet speed of 10-20 Mbps for high-definition (HD) video streaming. They use an average of 150-250 MB of data per day for continuous streaming in standard definition (SD). However, if the camera is set to higher quality video, the bandwidth usage could be much higher.</p>
<p>Smart Speakers: <i>(1 to 2 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Smart speakers typically require a minimum of 1-2 Mbps for basic functionality, such as streaming music or checking the weather and use an average of 40-100 MB of data per day. However, if you use your smart speaker for making phone calls or using other apps, the bandwidth usage can increase. <i>(Amazon Echo, Google Home, etc)</i></p>
<p>Smart Light Bulbs: <i>(1 to 2 Mbps)</i></p>	<p>Smart light bulbs typically require a minimum internet speed of 1-2 Mbps and use an average of 50-100 MB of data per month for basic functionality, including software updates and usage reporting. However, if you use your smart bulbs frequently or with other smart home devices, the bandwidth usage can increase.</p>

Keep in mind that these are general guidelines, and the actual amount of bandwidth used will increase with the more devices that are connected to the internet at the same time.



03. High-Bandwidth Activities in Your Home

When determining the internet speed you need for your home, it's important to consider the types of online activities that you engage in. Different online activities require different amounts of bandwidth, and if you regularly engage in activities that require a lot of bandwidth, you'll need a higher-speed internet plan to ensure a stable and reliable connection.

Here are some general guidelines on the bandwidth usage of common online activities:

Bandwidth Usage of Common Online Activities	
Web Browsing and Email:	usually less than 1 Mbps
Video Conferencing: <i>(1 to 10 Mbps)</i>	Video conferencing applications such as Zoom or Skype can use anywhere from 1 to 10 Mbps of bandwidth depending on the quality of the video and audio.
Streaming Video: <i>(3 to 25 Mbps)</i>	Streaming video services such as Netflix or YouTube typically use anywhere from 3 to 25 Mbps of bandwidth depending on the video quality.
Online Gaming: <i>(3 to 25 Mbps)</i>	Depending on whether single or multiplayer platforms are being used online gaming typically uses from 3 to 25 Mbps. One thing to keep in mind is these platforms require both download and upload speeds to provide a smooth gaming experience.
File Sharing:	Uploading or downloading large files, such as video files or software updates, can use a significant amount of bandwidth. The exact amount of bandwidth required will depend on the size of the file and the speed of the transfer.

It's important to keep in mind that these are just examples, and the specific internet speeds required for different activities may vary depending on the quality of the connection and the specific applications or services being used. By understanding the bandwidth requirements of different activities, you can better determine the internet speed you need to ensure a stable and reliable connection.

04. Number of Users in Your Home

The number of people in your household who will be using the internet at the same time is an important factor to consider when determining the internet speed you need. If multiple people will be using the internet simultaneously, you'll need a higher-speed internet plan to ensure that everyone has enough bandwidth for their online activities.

Take the activities listed in the High-Bandwidth and multiple that times the number of users that may be using that service at the same time.

Here are some general guidelines based on the number of users in your household:



One to two users: A minimum internet speed of 25 Mbps is recommended for households with one or two users who engage in basic online activities such as web browsing and email.



Three to four users: For households with three or four users who engage in online gaming, video streaming, and file sharing, internet speeds of 100 Mbps or higher may be necessary to ensure a stable and reliable connection.



Five or more users: For households with five or more users, an internet speed of 200 Mbps or higher may be necessary to ensure that everyone has enough bandwidth for their online activities.

It's important to note that these are general guidelines, and the specific internet speed you need may vary depending on the types of online activities that you engage in and the specific devices that you use. Additionally, the more devices that are connected to the internet at the same time, the more bandwidth you'll need to ensure a stable and reliable connection for everyone in your household.





05. Home Internet Bandwidth Worksheet

To help you pick the right plan, we recommend filling out this worksheet while looking at the peak hours of use in your home. For example, from the hours of 4pm to 9pm when everyone is likely home and the most devices are requiring internet connections.

You can refer to the *Types of Devices and Bandwidth Usage Chart (pg. 5)* for a description of what types of devices are included in each category.

Home Internet Bandwidth Worksheet			
Device Type Category	Top range of Mbps needed per device	# of Devices	(Mbps needed) x (# of Devices)
SmartPhones/Tablets	7 Mbps		
Laptops / Computers	25 Mbps		
Smart TV / Streaming Devices	25 Mbps		
Gaming Consoles	6 Mbps		
Smart Thermostat	2 Mbps		
Home Security Cameras	4 Mbps		
Smart Speakers	2 Mbps		
Smart Light Bulbs	3 Mbps		
Total Mbps Needed:			