

10 Tips

To Increase Your Wi-Fi Signal

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1. Reboot Your Router

Simple enough, right? Even new routers can use a reboot if something just isn't working quite right. It is even possible that your router's firmware offers an automated option to reboot with scheduled frequency, ensuring that your router is as stable as possible and that your "backoff" counter stays low.

2. Get a Better Antenna

You can save yourself the hassle of purchasing an entirely new router by just replacing the antenna(s). Not only does this make for an easier solution, it also saves you some money. An amplified aftermarket antenna's price can range, but typically you can purchase one for as little as \$10-\$15. Not all routers allow for new antenna to be attached, but many do.

3. Range Extenders

If replacing the antenna wasn't enough, fear not, we have another signal boosting option. A powered range extender can act as a powered antenna and wireless repeater all in one. Depending on how powerful you want the extender to be. This can be a fairly inexpensive option as well since most basic models are priced between \$15 and \$35.

4. Disable Older Wireless Protocols

Newer routers on the 802.11ac protocol offer capabilities far exceeding many ISP service offerings. While your router may be the latest and greatest, many of your devices may be using older protocols. When one of these devices joins your network it slows down the entire network when it connects. To resolve this, login to your router and change the 802.11 mode to accept only newer protocols.

5. Change the Direction of Your Antennas

This is the oldest trick in the book. It works on your big box televisions and it works on your Wi-Fi router too. If your antenna is obstructed or not facing an optimal direction, some efficiency can be gained by making this small adjustment. If your model has 2 antennas lay one flat and one facing up.

6. Keep Your Router Updated

Just like any other piece of hardware, manufacturers generally offer firmware updates to keep your technology in tip top shape. Though these updates usually don't improve performance, every little bit helps!

7. Experiment With Location

Location! Location! Location! The location of your signal is everything. Remember that interference we all know and love? Well relocating your router is a subtle, yet highly effective, change. Since the router is competing with other devices in your environment, the smallest adjustment can show a decrease in "backoff." Something else to consider is the building material around the router. Obstacles like concrete and rebar are not friends to Wi-Fi and may cause additional interference.

8. Change The Channel

Whether you're a Mac or a PC person, there are ways to find and connect to the best channel to improve your Wi-Fi speed. Mac computers offer a hidden function that allows users to scan the airwaves in order to find the channel with the least interference. This is located under 'Open Wireless Diagnostics'. There are downloadable programs for PCs that offer the same functions.

9. Switch To A Different Band

With a multi-band router, you can separate the traffic on your network to reduce network collisions. Think about this like a multilane highway. By telling the traffic where you want it to go, it is much more efficient at getting there.

10. Security

It is unbelievable how many tech-savvy people use the default username and password on their router. You are just leaving the door to the network open when doing this. Making your Wi-Fi password secure is much like changing the locks on a new apartment- smart. Also, using WPA2 with AES encryption (if possible) is far more secure than your standard WEP.



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