



CONSUMER BROADBAND GUIDELINES

1) Get the Right Modem:

The biggest cause of slowed down internet is the wrong modem. One of the best ways to make sure your network is as fast and reliable as possible is to use the appropriate, up-to-date hardware. Make sure your modem is suited to the internet plan that you are on – if you have upgraded your plan, check to see whether you also need to upgrade your modem. Note that you'll need a corresponding wireless router and card in your computer if you want the full speed boost.

2) Placing your modem for maximum effect:

Routers may be ugly, but that doesn't mean you should hide them behind the TV cabinet. If you want the best signal, you'll need it out in the open, free of any walls and obstructions. Point the antennas perpendicularly, and elevate the router if you can. Lastly, make sure its in the center of your house, so you have the best coverage possible throughout your home.

3) Check for a virus or malware:

Make sure that no virus or malware is causing your Internet access device (e.g., laptop and/or desktop computer) to slow down. Sometimes viruses and malware can live on your computer and divert resources away from what you are doing thus slowing down your speeds.

4) Are you sharing without knowing it?

Does your landlord supply your internet? If she/he is sharing one internet connection between several apartments then internet speeds may suffer from over demand. Also, you will never get an accurate speed test.

5) Could it be wifi interference?

If you have neighbours, their routers may be interfering with yours and causing the signal to degrade. Wireless routers can operate on a number of different channels, and you want yours on a channel with as little interference as possible. Use a tool like [Wi-Fi Stumbler](#) or [Wi-Fi Analyzer](#) to find the perfect channel in your house.

6) What else could interfere with my signal?

Cordless phones, microwaves, baby monitors, wireless doorbells and other appliances can impact your signal as well. Buying a dual band



router can help with this. If you don't want to buy new hardware, you can try moving your router further away from interfering appliances.

7) Wifi theft:

Even if your router has a password, it can be really easy to hack. The best thing to do is just lock them out with better security. Use a password that combines numbers and upper and lower case letters. Do not share your password with your neighbours.

8) Is there a bandwidth hog in the house?

If someone in your house regularly video chats, plays online games, torrents files, or uses services like Netflix, they may be hogging bandwidth and making the internet slower for everyone else. Please check this before you undertake a speed test.

9) Router Booster:

If your router still won't reach far enough, you can extend its range with simple DIY tricks. Our favorite is [the Windsurfer tin foil hack](#), though you can also use [an old beer can](#) (see diagram below) or a [cooking strainer](#) to extend your router's range. The results won't necessarily be substantial, but you should be able to eke a bit more distance out of your Wi-Fi network with minimal cost.

10) Auto Reboot:

If you find that you need to reboot your router every so often so it doesn't drop out, there is a solution. You can run a few tests to make sure the problem isn't caused by heat, old firmware, or excess downloading, but an easy way to solve the problem is just automatically reboot it once a day or so. You can do this with DD-WRT or just a regular old outlet timer. When you're done, you shouldn't have to reboot your router as frequently.

THE 'CANTENNA' BOOST YOUR WI FI

FLOW
PRESENTS BVI LIFE HACKS

1 Carefully cut round the base edge of a clean empty soda can

2 do the same with the top but not all around. leave a 1cm space



3 on the opposite side from the 1cm, cut from the base to the top and bend the can out



4 place the can hole over the router antenna so the shiny can interior can boost signal strength

