Helpful Tips for WiFi in your Home

There are two primary choices and tradeoffs on where you and your technician set up your WiFi-enabled Internet modem.

- If you use WiFi equally throughout the house, the WiFi-enabled Internet modem should be placed as close to the middle of your home as possible. This helps provide the best possible WiFi signal throughout.
- If there is a primary media room where you use WiFi the most, the WiFi-enabled Internet modem should be placed there. This allows you to wire devices that require more bandwidth, such as streaming video or gaming systems, directly into your modem and minimize the wireless needs from these devices. If your media room isn't in the middle of your home, the WiFi signal strength for other devices could be impacted the farther you move from the WiFi-enabled Internet modem.

Free & Clear

Don't block your WiFi-enabled Internet modem's signal.

- Avoid placing it in a closet or cabinet or putting it behind something (such as a TV, aquarium or staircase) that might weaken the WiFi signal.
- Don't place it on the floor or low to the ground.
- Don't place it next to windows.
- Open any doors to the room where you've placed the WiFi-enabled Internet modem.

Wired When Possible

As fast as our Home WiFi may be, wireless connections aren't as fast as wired connections. Devices such as streaming video players (e.g. Roku, Amazon Fire) or gaming systems (e.g. Xbox, PlayStation) need lots of bandwidth. Whenever possible, connect these devices to your WiFi-enabled Internet modem via a wired Ethernet connection.

Just One Network

Whenever possible, do not run more than one WiFi network in your home using other routers. Devices that connect to more than one network may have trouble keeping a constant connection, and the networks will interfere with one another. Having other wireless routers isn't the only challenge. Baby monitors, cordless phones and even microwave ovens can also cause

interference. Try to ensure that monitors and phones run on separate channels from the 2.4 and 5GHz channels that your WiFi-enabled Internet modem uses and, if possible, turn off those networks when not in use. All routers support the 2.4Ghz frequency, which distributes traffic among a handful of channels. Dual-band routers also support the newer 5GHz frequency, which contains even more channels. That frequency tends to be less congested and therefore usually allows faster connections.You may be able to increase your speed by switching to a less busy channel, no matter which frequency you're on.

Channel Width

For homes that have lots of neighbors nearby (e.g. apartments or townhomes) who all have their own WiFi networks, you might experience some WiFi interference. If your WiFi devices have trouble connecting in these situations, you may want to limit the channel width on your WiFi-enabled Internet modem. To limit the channel width, sign in to your WiFi-enabled Internet modem and minimize the channel width to 20Mhz for your 2.4 GHz network and 20/40 for your 5GHz network. This may assist in minimizing the WiFi "noise" for your devices.

Speed Test

Not all devices are the same when it comes to WiFi speed. When using our Internet, check the WiFi speeds on all your devices when you are near your WiFi-enabled Internet modem using Xfinty Speed Test speedtest.xfinity.com or speedtest.net. Note which devices may have lower speeds and might not perform effectively when they are farther from the WiFi-enabled Internet modem.

Reboot

Like any software, it's beneficial to occasionally reboot your WiFi-enabled Internet modem. One great benefit is that the Auto Channel Selection will run and update if it sees any changes to your home's WiFi environment. This helps to make sure you have the best possible WiFi speeds. Simply unplug your Internet modem, wait a moment, and plug it back in. All your devices should automatically reconnect.

Upgrade your Router if it's old

If you can't remember when you purchased your router, or if you didn't even *purchase* your router (i.e. inherited from an old roommate), it's probably time to get a new router. This is particularly a problem among many who pay for high-speed Internet access but are clueless as to why their signal isn't performing up to its potential. Older routers perform according to older Wi-Fi standards and are not as well-equipped to handle multiple devices. A newer router will maximize your current Wi-Fi signal so you'll get the fast speeds with the lowest amount of interference.

How can you tell if your router is dated? According to How-To Geek, you can Google your router's model number and find out its wireless standards. If your router's wireless standards are

802.11ac, which are the newest wireless standards, you're good. Anything else, and it might be time for an upgrade.