

Wi-Fi, routers & broadband | Medium | 2 min read

How to secure your router

Your router is the front door to your home network. A few simple steps will make it much harder for anyone to misuse your connection or see your devices.

1. Change the admin password

The router has two passwords: one for Wi-Fi and one for its settings page. Many people change only the Wi-Fi one. Check the sticker for the default admin login, then change it to something long and unique that you do not use elsewhere. Menus differ between routers, so look for **Administration**, **Password** or **System** in the settings.

2. Use strong Wi-Fi security

Choose **WPA3** if your router and devices support it. If not, **WPA2** is fine. Avoid options called WEP, WPA or Open, as they are weak or offer no protection.

3. Use a long Wi-Fi password

Use three or four unrelated words with a number. Do not use the same password as anywhere else.

4. Keep it updated

Updates fix security flaws. Many provider routers update themselves, but check whether yours does. If your router is very old, ask your provider about a replacement.

5. Switch off what you do not need

- Turn off remote management or remote access, unless you really need it.
- Turn off WPS if you do not use it.
- Do not open ports or forward them to devices unless a professional has explained the risks.

6. Use a guest network

Give visitors and smart gadgets a separate network. Our guest Wi-Fi guide shows how.

7. Check who is connected

Many routers list connected devices. If you see a name you do not recognise, change the Wi-Fi password.

A warning about resets

A factory reset returns the router to its original settings and erases your Wi-Fi name, password and any changes. Only use it as a last resort, and have your provider details to hand in case you need to set it up again.

Beware of scams

Your provider will not phone you and ask for your router password or ask you to install software. If someone does, hang up and call the number on your bill.

When to get more help

If you are not sure whether your router is up to date or safe, we can check it with you.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.