

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

Where to put your router for the best Wi-Fi

Where your router sits makes a bigger difference to your Wi-Fi than most people expect. A few minutes moving it can fix weak signal without spending a penny.

Why position matters

Wi-Fi is a radio signal. It spreads out in all directions and gets weaker as it passes through walls, floors and furniture. Thick brick, stone, mirrors, large fish tanks and metal objects block it most.

The best spot

- Somewhere central in the home, so the signal has the shortest route to every room.
- Out in the open, on a shelf or small table, rather than on the floor.
- Upstairs or downstairs? Signal spreads more easily downwards, so a first-floor spot can suit a two-storey house.
- Away from walls and corners where possible.

Places to avoid

- Inside a cupboard, under the stairs or behind the television.
- Next to a microwave, cordless phone base or baby monitor, which can cause interference.
- Right beside a window, where much of the signal escapes outside.
- Tucked behind a sofa or curtains.

How to move it

Your router usually has to stay near the point where the broadband enters your home, such as the first phone socket or fibre box. If that is in an awkward place, ask your provider whether a longer cable is suitable, or consider a mesh system. Do not buy a random long phone extension lead, as poor cables can slow your connection.

1. Switch off and unplug the router before moving it.
2. Plug it into the new socket and wait a few minutes for the lights to settle.
3. Test the signal in the rooms you use most, on your phone.
4. If it is better, leave it there. If not, try another spot.

Keep the aerials in mind

If your router has aerials, point them upright. Most are designed to send signal outwards from a vertical position.

When to get more help

If you cannot get a good signal anywhere sensible, or the router has to stay somewhere awkward, we can advise on mesh Wi-Fi or wired options for your home.

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.