

Should I buy a router that comes with fiber optic internet



Overview

So, the bottom line is that an ISP router is best if you want simplicity, don't use the internet heavily, or move often.

Key Takeaways

Yes, you need a router to share fiber optic internet with multiple devices, but you do not need a modem.

Fiber Internet Setup

Fiber optic internet uses an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) instead of a traditional modem.

The ONT

It converts the light signals from the fiber line into digital signals that your devices can use, effectively replacing the function of a modem. This means that while a modem is unnecessary, a router is still required if you want to connect multiple devices or use Wi-Fi in your home.

Router Requirements

Not all routers are compatible with fiber internet. To ensure full performance:

- WAN Port: Your router must have a Gigabit Ethernet WAN port to connect to the ONT.
- Speed Support: The router should support the speed tier of your fiber plan, especially if it exceeds 1 Gbps.

Wi-

Fi Standard: Modern routers with Wi-Fi 6 or 6E are recommended for optimal speed, efficiency, and device management.

Older Wi-

Fi 4 or 5 routers may limit your fiber internet speeds. Additional Features: Routers with dual-band or tri-band Wi-Fi, parental controls, gaming optimizations, or smart home integrations can enhance your network experience. Buying vs Renting a Router Renting from ISP: Provides tech support, free replacements, and automatic upgrades, but may involve monthly fees and older hardware.

Buying Your Own: Offers full control over settings, ensures you have a high-performance router, and avoids ongoing rental fees. However, you are responsible for maintenance, upgrades, and troubleshooting.

Summary

While fiber internet eliminates the need for a modem, a router is essential to distribute the connection to multiple devices and enable Wi-Fi. You can either use the router provided by your ISP or purchase a compatible router that meets your speed and feature requirements to maximize your fiber internet performance.

Article Content

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Unsure if you need a modem for fiber internet? Here's everything you need to know to ensure you get the right equipment for your fiber-optic connection.

The Best Routers for Fiber Internet: My Expert Picks

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9 Best Fiber Internet Routers 2025 | HighSpeedOptions

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