



A Practical Guide to Choosing Your Ideal Internet Speed



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Introduction

How much internet speed do **you** actually need? Not what's advertised. Not what someone else uses. **You.**

Too slow, and your connection drags. Too fast, and you're paying for speed you don't use. The right plan? That's the sweet spot.

Right now, the **average U.S. internet speed is 262.59 Mbps download and 39.39 Mbps upload.** But here's the thing—you're not the average user. Your internet needs depend on your household, your devices, and how you use them.



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Internet Speed Basics

Not all internet speed is created equal. To find the right plan, you need to know **what speed means** and how it affects your daily life.

Download vs. Upload Speeds

Your internet connection has two sides: **download speed** and **upload speed**.



Download speed: How fast you receive content, like streaming movies, browsing the web, or downloading files.



Upload speed: How fast you send content, like making video calls, saving files to the cloud, or posting on social media.

Most plans prioritize **download speed** since streaming and browsing are the most common activities.

But if you work from home, game online, or store files in the cloud, **upload speed matters too**.





Symmetrical vs. Asymmetrical Speeds

Your internet has two sides: **downloading** (getting things from the internet) and **uploading** (sending things to the internet). But not all internet plans treat them equally.



Asymmetrical speeds. Most internet plans have **fast downloads but slower uploads**. This is fine for streaming and browsing but can cause lag in video calls, delays when sharing your screen, and slow uploads for social media posts or large email attachments.



Symmetrical speeds. Upload and download speeds are the **same**, so everything moves faster in both directions. Video calls feel smoother, screen sharing is instant, and posting videos or sending large files takes seconds, not minutes.



Did You Know?



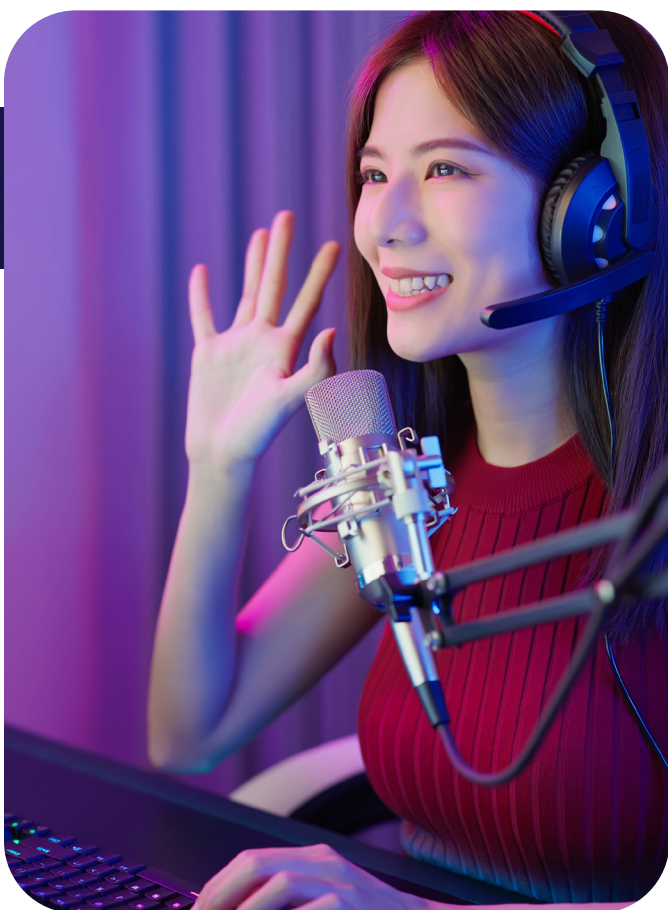
*Fiber internet delivers **symmetrical speeds** and stays fast even during peak hours, perfect for busy households.*



How to Determine Your Internet Needs

Not all households need the same internet speed. A small apartment with one laptop and a smart TV won't use as much as a family with multiple gamers, streamers, and smart home devices.

So, how do you figure out what's right for you? Start with the basics:



Step 1:

Match your speed to your online activities.

Internet speed isn't just about how many devices you have. It's about how you use them.

A home with five casual web browsers won't need the same speed as a home with two people streaming in 4K while gaming online.

Different activities require different amounts of bandwidth. Use the chart below to see how much speed your household may need.

Activity	Download Speed (Mbps)	Upload Speed (Mbps)	Example Scenario
Basic Browsing & Email	1-5 Mbps	Minimal	Checking email, scrolling social media, or reading news.
Music Streaming	1-2 Mbps	Minimal	Streaming Spotify or Apple Music in standard quality.
SD Streaming	1-3 Mbps	Minimal	Watching YouTube on a phone or tablet.
HD Streaming	5-8 Mbps	Minimal	Streaming Netflix or Hulu in 1080p.
4K Streaming	15-25 Mbps	Minimal	Watching 4K movies on multiple devices.
8K Streaming	50+ Mbps	Minimal	Viewing ultra-HD content on an 8K TV.
Online Gaming	3-6 Mbps	1-3 Mbps	Playing multiplayer games on a console or PC.
Game Downloads & Updates	50+ Mbps	Minimal	Downloading a 100GB game without waiting hours.
Video Calls (HD)	3-4 Mbps	3-4 Mbps	A Zoom or Teams meeting with one user.
HD Streaming	5-8 Mbps	Minimal	Streaming Netflix or Hulu in 1080p.
4K Streaming	15-25 Mbps	Minimal	Watching 4K movies on multiple devices.
Video Calls (4+ people)	5-8 Mbps	5-8 Mbps	A group call with multiple participants.
Screen Sharing & Remote Work	10+ Mbps	5-10 Mbps	Sharing your screen on Zoom or working with cloud apps.
Cloud Backups & File Uploads	5-20 Mbps	5-20 Mbps	Uploading large files to Google Drive or Dropbox.
Smart Home Devices	~1 Mbps per device	Minimal	Security cameras, smart speakers, etc.
Security Cameras (HD/4K)	2-8 Mbps per camera	2-8 Mbps per camera	Live-streaming home security footage.
Multiple Users Streaming/Gaming	50+ Mbps	10+ Mbps	Several people streaming, gaming, and working at once.

Your speed needs aren't just based on a single activity. You need to **add up everything happening at the same time** in your household.

Example:

- One person **uploading a video to social media (10 Mbps upload)**
- Another playing **an online game (6 Mbps download, 3 Mbps upload)**
- Someone on a **Zoom call for work (4 Mbps download, 4 Mbps upload)**
- Another streaming **Netflix in HD (8 Mbps download)**

Think about the busiest internet day in your household. When multiple people are online at the same time, what's happening?

If your household mostly does:

- Browsing, checking email, listening to music, or streaming in SD → **100–300 Mbps is usually enough.**

If your household also includes:

- HD streaming, online gaming, remote work, or video calls → **You'll need at least 300–500 Mbps.**

If your household regularly:

- Streams in 4K, plays competitive online games, uploads large files, or runs multiple smart home devices → **500 Mbps–1 Gbps+ ensures smooth performance.**

Did You Know?



*The internet speed you **pay for** isn't always the speed you **get**.*

*Advertised speeds are the **maximum possible** under perfect conditions—but real-world performance depends on things like **router quality, Wi-Fi interference, and network congestion**.*





Tip:

Choose a plan with **a little extra speed** beyond what you think you need. That way, your internet stays fast even with multiple people streaming, gaming, or working online.

Step 2: Count your devices.

Every connected device takes up bandwidth. The more devices you have, the more speed you need.

- **A small household (1-5 devices)** can usually get by with a lower-speed plan.
- **A medium household (6-10 devices)** needs a moderate-speed plan, especially if multiple people are online at once.
- **A large household (10+ devices)** should consider higher speeds to avoid slowdowns.

How many devices are in your home? Write down how many you have of each:

Personal devices

- ☐ Laptops & PCs: ____
- ☐ Smartphones: ____
- ☐ Tablets: ____
- ☐ Smartwatches & fitness trackers: ____

Entertainment devices

- ☐ Smart TVs & streaming sticks: ____
- ☐ Gaming consoles (PlayStation, Xbox, Switch): ____
- ☐ VR headsets: ____

Smart home devices

- ☐ Security cameras (Ring, Nest, etc.): ____
- ☐ Smart thermostats (Nest, Ecobee, etc.): ____
- ☐ Smart lights (Hue, LIFX, etc.): ____
- ☐ Robot vacuums (Roomba, Roborock, etc.): ____
- ☐ Smart speakers & assistants (Alexa, Google Home, etc.): ____
- ☐ Other smart devices (doorbells, appliances, etc.): ____

What's your device total? ____

Matching Your Internet Speed to Your Devices

**0-5
devices**

Basic speeds (100-300 Mbps)

Ideal for single users or small households who browse, check emails, use social media, and stream on one device at a time.

**6-10
devices**

Mid-range speeds (300-500 Mbps)

Ideal for families or shared households with multiple people streaming in HD, gaming, and working from home.

**10+
devices**

High-speed plans (500 Mbps - 1 Gbps+)

Ideal for large households or heavy internet users who stream in 4K, game online, join video calls, and run smart home devices.



Step 3:

Find the right speed plan for your household.

Now that you know **how many devices** you have and **what your household does online**, it's time to **match your needs to an actual internet plan**.

Which Speed Plan Fits Your Home?

Internet 300

Best for small households with light to moderate internet use.

What you can do:

- Stream **HD (1080p) content** smoothly on multiple devices.
- Play **online games** with minimal lag.
- Join **video calls** in high quality.
- Work from home with **basic cloud access** and occasional virtual meetings.



Ideal for:

- **1-3 people** streaming, working, and gaming at the same time.
- Small households that **don't need 4K streaming or heavy downloads**.

Internet 500

Best for medium-sized households with multiple users and moderate-to-heavy usage.

What you can do:

- Stream **HD (1080p) content** smoothly on multiple devices.
- Play **online games** with minimal lag.
- Join **video calls** in high quality.
- Work from home with **basic cloud access** and occasional virtual meetings.



Ideal for:

- **3-5 people** streaming, working, and gaming **simultaneously**.
- Households that use **4K streaming, online gaming, and remote work**.

Gigabit Internet

Best for larger households, remote workers, and heavy internet users.

What you can do:

- Stream **multiple 4K videos** at the same time.
- Download/upload **huge files** in seconds.
- Support **multiple gamers and streamers at once**.
- Power a **smart home setup** with security cameras, speakers, and automation.



Ideal for:

- **5-10 people with multiple high-demand activities** happening at once.
- Homes with lots of **devices, gamers, or frequent large file sharing**.

10 Gigabit Internet

Best for very large households, businesses, and ultra-fast needs.

What you can do:

- Stream **8K content** on multiple screens.
- Transfer **massive files (100GB+) in seconds**.
- Support an **entire smart home or small office** with zero slowdowns.
- Handle **business-critical applications** with ultra-fast speeds.



Ideal for:

- **Power users, tech professionals, and businesses** with extreme internet needs.
- Homes with **dozens of devices running high-bandwidth tasks**.

Pick the Right Internet Speed for Your Home

Answer these to match your household with the best speed!

1

How do you use the internet?

-  Basic tasks (browsing, email, SD streaming) → **300 Mbps**
-  HD streaming, gaming, remote work → **500 Mbps**
-  4K streaming, frequent uploads, work from home → **1 Gbps**
-  Multiple people streaming, gaming, working at once → **10 Gbps**

2

How many people are online at the same time?

-  Just me → Stick with the plan above.
-  2-4 people → Consider **one tier higher** for smooth performance.
-  5+ people → Go for **1 Gbps or higher** to avoid slowdowns.

3

Do you work from home, game online, or upload large files often?

-  Yes → Increase your speed choice **by one level** for reliability.
-  No → Stick with the recommendation from Question 1.

Final Tip:

If you're unsure, **it's better to have extra speed than not enough!**



Still need advice? Call us at (877) 722-3833. Our team can help!

Disclaimer: Speeds may vary & are not guaranteed. Certain equipment may be required to reach advertised speeds. Not all services, speeds, packages, equipment, channels, tiers, pricing, product offerings, and product features are available in all areas.