

# Home Wi-Fi Setup Checklist

## Overview: What You'll Be Doing

Setting up a home Wi-Fi network involves:

- Connecting your modem and router.
- Accessing the router's settings via a web browser.
- Configuring your network name and password.
- Connecting your devices to the new network.

## Equipment Needed (Verify you have all before beginning)

- **Modem:** Provided by your Internet Service Provider (ISP).
- **Router:** May be a separate device or combined with the modem.
- **Ethernet Cable:** Usually included with your router.
- **Computer or Smartphone:** To access router settings.
- **Router Manual:** For specific instructions and default login details.

Basic Wi-Fi setup with separate modem and router



Image credit: <https://www.xfinity.com/>

## Step-by-Step Setup

1. **Position Your Router:** Place the router in a central location, elevated, and away from obstructions like walls or large metal objects to ensure optimal signal distribution.
2. **Power Off the Modem:** Unplug the modem to reset it before connecting new devices.
3. **Connect the Router to the Modem:** Use an Ethernet cable to connect the modem to the router's WAN or Internet port. This cable should come packaged with the router.
4. **Power On Devices:** Plug in and turn on the modem. Wait for it to fully initialize. Then, plug in and turn on the router. Wait for it to boot up completely.
5. **Connect a Computer to the Router:** Use another Ethernet cable to connect your computer to one of the router's LAN ports. This ensures a stable connection during setup.
6. **Access Router Settings:** Open a web browser on the connected computer. Enter the router's IP address into the address bar (commonly 192.168.0.1 or 192.168.1.1). This information is usually found in the router's manual or on a sticker on the device.
7. **Log In to the Router:** Enter the default username and password (often "admin" for both). Refer to the router's manual for exact credentials.
8. **Change Default Credentials:** Navigate to the administration settings and change the default username and password to secure your router.
9. **Set Up Wi-Fi Network: Network Name (SSID):** Choose a unique name for your network. Create a strong password using a mix of letters, numbers, and symbols. Select security mode (WPA2, or WPA3 for enhanced security).

10. **Save Settings and Reboot:** Save the new settings. The router may reboot to apply changes.
11. **Connect Devices to Wi-Fi:** On your devices, search for the new network name (SSID). Enter the password you set to connect.
12. **Test the Connection:** Ensure all devices can connect to the internet. If issues arise, consult the router's manual or ISP support.

#### **Additional Tips**

- **Firmware Updates:** Regularly check for and install router firmware updates to maintain security and performance.
- **Guest Network:** If you frequently have guests (for example, you operate an Airbnb), you might want to set up a guest network separate from your main network.
- **Device Placement:** For larger homes, Wi-Fi extenders or mesh systems can help eliminate dead zones.