

When to upgrade a router?

- A standard Wi-Fi router typically lasts between five and ten years, depending on factors like maintenance and compatibility with the latest Wi-Fi standards.
- You should upgrade your router if it uses outdated Wi-Fi standards, has consistently poor connectivity issues, and stops receiving firmware updates.
- Upgrading your router offers benefits such as improved network performance, security features, and future-proofing for upcoming Wi-Fi standards.

5 Reasons to Upgrade Your Old Router

Now, despite what was just said, getting rid of your old router in favor of a shiny new one to use the latest Wi-Fi standard is a good reason to upgrade. It's just that you don't have to do it immediately. But if you're using an old router that doesn't even use the current standard, you'll want to upgrade. For example, if your router is only able to use Wi-Fi 5 (802.11ac), upgrading to a router using Wi-Fi 6E (802.11ax-2021) is worthwhile.

But there are some other reasons you'll want to upgrade your router.

- 1. Network Performance:** A newer router should deliver greater network performance across the board. It's not just the potential to use a new Wi-Fi standard; all the hardware in your new router will be upgraded and deliver better Wi-Fi, process data faster, handle more devices, and so on.
- 2. Security:** Newer routers often come with improved security features and better network management tools. If your current router is outdated in these areas, upgrading can provide both performance and security benefits. For example, a new router will likely support WPA3, the latest Wi-Fi security standard.
- 3. Reliability:** New routers are often more reliable and less prone to issues like random disconnections or the need for frequent restarts. When your old Wi-Fi router can't maintain a proper connection, upgrading to a new router will feel like stepping into the future.
- 4. Compatibility:** Your old router might not have what it takes to handle gigabit Ethernet, which will limit your Wi-Fi speeds.
- 5. Future Proofing:** As stated, Wi-Fi standards take a while to filter through, and that applies to your devices, too. Upgrading an old router will protect against future changes for many years to come, especially given how long a router lasts.