



Improve your Broadband Speed

If you are suffering with slow broadband speeds the following tips may help:

Maintain your computer

Deleting unused files and programs from your computer can make it run quicker, which can help your browser work more smoothly. The age of your computer equipment can also make a significant difference to your speeds. For example, a new iPad connecting wirelessly will almost certainly download faster than an older computer, even connected directly to your router via a cable.

Position your router

Check whether your router is close to any power cables or other electrical equipment, and if it is, try moving it. All such devices emit radio interference which can affect your broadband signal as it travels down the line.

Leave your router switched on

Leaving your router on will make sure you get the best speed and performance from your service.

Don't switch it off at night! Regularly switching off your router can make it look like your service is disconnecting. If this happens, your broadband speed will be reduced because the exchange thinks your line is unstable and can't cope with higher speeds. Speed reductions are never permanent, but it can take up to 3 days before your speeds return to normal.

Check the socket

You should plug your router into the master socket; the wall socket where your phone line first enters your home. Poor quality extension cables running under carpets and through walls into other rooms can slow your internet connection down.

Split the signals

Ensure you have a micro-filter installed between the phone socket on the wall and your router. The small, very cheap devices split the telephone signal from the broadband signal, and help you get the best from both. Your Internet Service Provider should supply these with your router.

Try Ethernet

WiFi is great, but in some homes, particularly solidly built ones, the signal can be weak and make browsing a frustrating experience. Try using an ethernet cable straight into the router to see if it improves matters.

Try a BT Broadband Accelerator

The BT Broadband Accelerator (formerly known as the BT I-Plate) is a small plate that broadband customers who have more than one phone socket can insert into their main telephone socket to reduce the impact of electrical interference from equipment such as microwave ovens, electrical light fittings and televisions. BT says fitting one may increase broadband speed by up to 1.5Mbps, though it doesn't guarantee this. The BT Broadband Accelerator is free for BT Total Broadband customers who order it online (although you'll need to pay postage), but non-BT customers can also get the BT Broadband Accelerator for around £6. To find out more, search www.bt.com for Broadband Accelerator.