

Home Wi-Fi Dead-Zone Checklist

Use one device, one test service, and the same locations before and after each change.

Do not write passwords, IP addresses, MAC addresses, serial numbers, or router QR codes on this form.

1. Network and test setup

Router/gateway model: _____

Internet provider: _____

Advertised plan: _____

Test device: _____

Test date/time: _____

- ☐ Paused downloads, updates, cloud backups, and unnecessary streaming
- ☐ Used the same speed-test service at every location

2. Baseline beside the router

Test	Down	Up	Latency	Band	Drops?	Notes
1						
2						
3						

- ☐ Performance is healthy beside the router ☐ Performance is poor beside the router

3. Scope test

- ☐ Second device works normally in same place
- ☐ Only one device is affected
- ☐ Every Wi-Fi device is affected
- ☐ Wi-Fi stays connected but internet disappears
- ☐ Ethernet works normally, if tested

4. Room-by-room map

Room	Connect	Down	Up	Latency	Band	Drops	Obstacles
Router room							
Living room							
Office							
Bedroom							
Kitchen							
Basement							
Garage							
Other							

Home Wi-Fi Dead-Zone Checklist - Changes

5. Router location

- ☐ Near the center of important rooms
- ☐ Out in the open
- ☐ Off the floor
- ☐ Not behind a television
- ☐ Not inside a closed cabinet
- ☐ Away from large metal objects or appliances
- ☐ Adequately ventilated
- ☐ Power and Ethernet cables secure

6. Make one change and retest the worst room

Change	Before	After	Better?	Keep?
Move toward center				
Raise router				
Remove enclosure				
Move away from TV				
Try other band				
Move client device				
Restart/update				
Existing Ethernet				

7. Band and software checks

- ☐ Tested 2.4 GHz
- ☐ Tested 5 GHz
- ☐ Checked router firmware or ISP update status
- ☐ Updated the test device
- ☐ Did not disable WPA2/WPA3 security
- ☐ Did not factory-reset the router

8. Likely result

- ☐ One-device problem
- ☐ Wi-Fi coverage or placement problem
- ☐ Router or local network problem
- ☐ Modem or internet-provider problem
- ☐ Interference or congestion
- ☐ Unclear - collect more observations

Home Wi-Fi Dead-Zone Checklist - Decision

9. Final notes

Best current router location: _____

Worst remaining room: _____

Most useful change: _____

Next action: _____

10. Next action

- ☐ Keep testing free placement changes
- ☐ Troubleshoot one affected device
- ☐ Use existing Ethernet for a fixed device
- ☐ Contact the internet provider
- ☐ Check manufacturer support
- ☐ Consider an access point, mesh, extender, or replacement only after diagnosis

Privacy and safety

- Keep Wi-Fi and administrator passwords off this checklist.
- Do not publish screenshots containing SSIDs, IP addresses, MAC addresses, serial numbers, or QR codes.
- Use supported firmware and current WPA2 or WPA3 security.
- Back up router settings before major configuration changes.
- Do not open network equipment or substitute an unapproved power adapter.
- Do not place indoor equipment where it can get wet or overheat.
- Factory reset and network reset are last-resort steps because they erase saved settings.

Useful How Biscuit guides

- Why Is My Wi-Fi So Slow?
- Best Place to Put Your Wi-Fi Router
- Why Does My Wi-Fi Keep Disconnecting?
- 2.4 GHz vs. 5 GHz Wi-Fi
- How to Fix Wi-Fi Dead Zones Without Buying Anything