Is it expensive to upgrade a router to fiber optic



Overview

Fiber Optic Internet Cost Guide: Price Ranges and What Impacts It 2026Buyers typically pay a mix of installation fees, monthly service charges, and potenti.

Key Takeaways

Yes, upgrading to fiber optic internet typically involves costs for equipment, installation, and sometimes the router itself.

Equipment Costs

Switching to fiber internet usually requires an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) and a compatible router to handle the high speeds and bandwidth of fiber-optic technology. Some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) include the ONT and router as part of a promotion, while others may charge separately. Router costs can vary depending on whether you need a standard model or a high-performance router capable of supporting gigabit speeds.

Installation and Labor

Installing fiber optic cables from the nearest distribution point to your home often requires a technician visit, which may involve trenching, using existing conduits, or aerial installation. Typical residential installation costs range from $100 to $1,000 for one-time setup, depending on whether a new fiber drop is needed and the complexity of the installation. Labor rates for technicians usually range from $60 to $120 per hour, with installations taking 2–6 hours for straightforward setups.

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Additional Costs

Other potential costs include permit fees (ranging from $50 to $500) and any site preparation or restoration work. Ongoing monthly service fees for fiber internet generally range from $60 to $150, with higher-speed plans potentially reaching $200 per month. The total upfront cost depends on your location, property layout, and whether your ISP provides equipment or requires you to purchase it separately.

Summary

Upgrading to fiber optic internet is not free. You should expect to pay for: Equipment: ONT and possibly a new routerInstallation: Technician labor and cable setupPermits or site preparation: If required by local regulationsOngoing service fees: Monthly subscription for fiber internet By checking with your ISP, you can determine whether the router and ONT are included or if you need to purchase them separately, which will help you budget accurately for the upgrade.

Article Content

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