

AT&T fixed wireless

Review page

Meta description: AT&T fixed wireless internet is available in rural areas and can be a decent alternative to satellite and DSL. Find out if AT&T fixed wireless is right for you.

Review headline: AT&T fixed wireless internet is a welcome option for rural areas

Review summary: AT&T's fixed wireless service gives households in remote locations an alternative to satellite and slow DSL. Its speeds are unpredictable, and it costs more than other fixed wireless providers. But there are no contracts, equipment is included, and the customer service is excellent.

Staff rating: 2.88/5

What we like:

- Availability in rural areas
- Great customer service
- Fast, professional installation

What we dislike:

- Expensive for fixed wireless
- Minimum speed is below broadband
- Data cap of 350 GB

Value

Go for AT&T fixed wireless if it's faster than DSL at your address

2.5/5

AT&T fixed wireless is attractive because of its availability in rural communities where you aren't likely to find [cable](#) or [fiber](#) service. It's more expensive than most [DSL](#) plans but may offer faster internet speeds in some areas. It's difficult to compare the two based on value, since speed is location-dependent with both DSL and [fixed wireless](#).

At around \$70 per month, it costs about the same as some cable and fiber plans but doesn't have the same level of performance. It offers better value than some [satellite internet](#) plans and has better reliability and less lag. The monthly price includes

equipment. However, against top fixed wireless companies like [T-Mobile](#) and Verizon 5G, AT&T can't compete on value. With these providers you can get similar or better speeds for half the price if you bundle in a cell phone plan. A cell plan with AT&T gives you a meek \$10 discount on internet.

With AT&T fixed wireless, you get only 350 GB of data per month, which means you should watch your usage to avoid overage charges (\$10 for each additional 50 GB of data). The data cap isn't the lowest we've seen (hello, satellite internet), but it may not be enough for many households, especially those who working from home or streaming. According to research from OpenVault, average monthly data consumption is just over 500 GB per month.¹ (1) Other fixed wireless providers offer unlimited data, so the data cap is a bit disappointing.

Performance

Speeds are unpredictable, but you won't get less than 10 Mbps

2.5/5

With fixed wireless, your home is connected to the internet wirelessly, so you don't need access to cable or phone lines. An antenna installed outside your home receives a signal from a nearby cell tower, and your speed will be determined in part by how close you are to this tower. Performance will also vary based on network capacity and anything that could block the LTE or 5G signal, like trees or weather events.

Speeds tend to be inconsistent, but outages aren't too common. AT&T fixed wireless could provide better performance than slow DSL plans depending on how much speed you can get at your location. Reliability is decent for the most part and is certainly better than satellite, but not as good as a wired connection like cable.

Typical download speeds sit around 25 Mbps. AT&T promises a minimum of 10 Mbps download speed and 1 Mbps upload speed, but there's no advertised maximum. AT&T will give you the highest possible speed for your location, and the actual speeds can be much higher than the minimum. Your actual speed range will depend on the type of signal you get in your area. LTE speeds range from 10–95 Mbps download and 1–30 Mbps upload. 5G ranges from 40–140 Mbps download and 5–25 Mbps upload.² (2)

Equipment and installation

Equipment is included, and professional installation is required

3/5

¹ "[Broadband Insights Report Q421](#)", OpenVault. Accessed 19 August 2022.

² "[Performance characteristics](#)," AT&T. Accessed 4 May 2023.

Like many fixed wireless companies, AT&T fixed wireless requires two pieces of equipment: a fixed antenna outdoors and a wireless gateway indoors. The outdoor antenna might be an issue if you have an HOA or live in an apartment, so make sure you aren't breaking any rules before you sign up for AT&T fixed wireless. After you order, you can schedule the required \$99 professional installation within ten days. Equipment is included with your plan.

An installer will set up the equipment in around three hours, making sure the antenna is mounted where it can get the best possible signal from a cell tower in the area. They will also connect your devices to the network for you, which makes the entire process smooth. There's no self-installation option, but the professional installation doesn't take long and the cost is about average.

Customer experience

AT&T has excellent customer service

4/5

Customer experience with AT&T is excellent thanks to its superior customer service. Since professionals tackle the installation process for you, getting started with fixed wireless service is fast and easy. And AT&T's customer service team quickly responds to questions and issues by phone and online. That said, some customers have complained of delays in getting technicians out to solve issues with their fixed wireless service.

AT&T has the third-highest rating of any internet service provider by the American Customer Satisfaction Index, which is excellent. However, this likely has a lot to do with its fiber internet service, which is some of the best in the industry.³ (3) Also, the competition is tough to beat. First and second place went to Verizon and T-Mobile—AT&T's top fixed wireless competitors. In this area too, AT&T falls just a little bit behind the competition.

[H2] How much does AT&T fixed wireless cost?

AT&T fixed wireless internet service costs \$70 per month, or \$60 per month if you have an AT&T mobile phone plan too. The service comes with just 350 GB of data. If you go over that limit, which is likely for households with multiple people, you can purchase additional data in increments of 50 GB for \$10 each, up to \$100 per month. There's no

³ "[Internet Service Providers](#)," American Customer Satisfaction Index. Accessed 15 August 2022.

contract required, but the required professional installation costs \$99. Equipment is included in the cost of the plan.

[H3] How AT&T fixed wireless stacks up on value

AT&T's Fixed Wireless service costs as much as cable, and it's more expensive than DSL. You probably won't get a lot of speed for your money, but if your internet options are limited, it offers a better experience than satellite and might be faster than some DSL plans in your area. And since satellite is often just as expensive and comes with even lower data limits and slower speeds, AT&T fixed wireless is usually the better deal.

Compared to other fixed wireless providers, AT&T doesn't fare as well. T-Mobile and Verizon 5G will cost you less, and both offer a much better discount for bundling in mobile phone service. You could pay less than half with one of these providers. And given T-Mobile's much wider availability, there's a good chance you'll have this option.

[H2] AT&T fixed wireless costs and fees to consider

AT&T received a 3 out of 5 for equipment and installation partly because these costs are about average. There are no equipment fees (yay!), but higher-than-average professional installation costs balance these savings. And since there's no self-installation option, there's no way around this cost.

Like many providers, AT&T may also charge you a "[junk fee](#)" called a cost recovery fee. This fee is to help the company pay for building out its infrastructure, and they pass that cost along to you. How much you'll pay varies by area, but it could be as little as a dollar or so.

Learn more about [understanding your bill](#).

- Self-installation cost
 - N/A
- Professional installation
 - \$99
- Equipment fees
 - None
- Surcharge
 - Varies

[H2] AT&T fixed wireless internet deals and incentives

There aren't any special deals or contract buyout offers for switching, but you won't have to pay extra for equipment since it's included in the plan cost. If you use AT&T for your mobile phone service, you may be able to save \$10 by bundling.

[H2] AT&T fixed wireless bundles

AT&T fixed wireless offers two bundles: mobile phone and satellite TV through [DIRECTV](#). If you have a postpaid AT&T wireless plan with at least 1 GB of data, you'll save \$10/month on your fixed wireless service. You can also "bundle" fixed wireless service with DIRECTV, but you'll pay the same price as you would separately. That said, DIRECTV is an excellent service, especially for rural customers, so it's worth checking out anyway.

- Internet & mobile phone
 - \$10 discount
 - Internet and DIRECTV
 - No discount
-

[H2] Cancellation costs for AT&T fixed wireless

AT&T fixed wireless doesn't have contracts, so there are no early termination fees. When you cancel, you must return the Wi-Fi gateway router within 21 days, or you'll be charged a fee of up to \$150. This fee will be refunded if you can get the router to AT&T within 90 days.

You may have to pay termination fees if you bundle DIRECTV with your fixed wireless internet service. There are 24-month contracts for DIRECTV service, which has its own terms.

- Cancellation fee
 - N/A

- Contract length
 - N/A
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[H2] AT&T fixed wireless Affordable Connectivity Program

AT&T fixed wireless participates in the [Affordable Connectivity Program](#), which helps low-income families save on internet with up to \$30 in subsidies—or more, if you live on Tribal lands. That could [cut your AT&T fixed wireless bill in half](#).

Learn more about getting [free or low-cost internet](#).

[H2] Featured plans and prices

(Dynamic list - no written content required)

Alternatives page

[H2] Alternatives to AT&T fixed wireless: Which is better?

AT&T fixed wireless is best in places without [cable](#) or [fiber](#) lines—which is typically rural areas. As a result, AT&T competes directly with other fixed wireless providers, [satellite internet](#), and sometimes [DSL](#). Generally, it's better than satellite and DSL but struggles to hold its own against other [fixed wireless](#) companies.

AT&T fixed wireless vs. T-Mobile Home Internet: [T-Mobile](#)'s fixed wireless network is huge. You'll find it nearly everywhere AT&T fixed wireless is—and then some. You'll also find a better deal all around with T-Mobile. It's both cheaper and faster, and you'll get unlimited data. The only reason to choose AT&T instead is if you get better reception at your house. But neither company makes you sign a contract, so you can try them both for a month to compare.

Compare AT&T fixed wireless internet vs. T-Mobile Home Internet

AT&T fixed wireless vs. Verizon 5G: Verizon also serves nearly every place AT&T does. It's not quite as cheap as T-Mobile, but it costs less than AT&T. You'll get unlimited data, free equipment, and no contract. So give them a shot for a month too before settling on AT&T.

Compare AT&T fixed wireless internet vs. Verizon 5G internet

AT&T fixed wireless vs. Viasat: As a [satellite internet](#) company, [Viasat](#) has even wider availability than all these fixed wireless companies—the entire US. The downside is, it's also more expensive and less reliable. Viasat also has stricter data caps and much higher latency, which makes it hard to use for video calls, streaming TV, or online gaming. But it could be your best bet if you can't get AT&T or another fixed wireless service.

Compare AT&T fixed wireless internet vs. Viasat internet

[H2] Where is AT&T fixed wireless available?

AT&T fixed wireless has limited availability, but it can be found in select areas of the following 18 states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin.

[ZIP check]

See internet providers in your area

See all options in your area within seconds.

[H2] Alternative providers

(Dynamic list - no written content required)

FAQs

Does AT&T fixed wireless require a contract?

No, AT&T does not require any contracts for its residential fixed wireless internet service. That means there are no early termination fees, and you can cancel any time. Just make sure you return your equipment within 21 days, or you could be charged up to \$150 to keep it.

Because AT&T doesn't require a contract and whether you'll get a good signal at your house is hit or miss, we recommend giving AT&T a try for a month to see how it performs. But if [T-Mobile](#) or Verizon 5G is in your area, you might want to try them first because they're both better deals.

How fast is AT&T fixed wireless internet?

AT&T fixed wireless has a minimum download speed of 10 Mbps, but it can reach 140 Mbps. Upload speeds range from 1 Mbps to 30 Mbps. Average internet speeds are around 25 Mbps.

How fast your service will be [depends on where you live](#) and what kind of signal is in your area. With LTE, download speeds top out at 95 Mbps, but with 5G they can reach 140 Mbps. LTE upload speeds range from 1–30 Mbps, but for 5G they're 5–25 Mbps.

Find out how [much speed you need](#).

How much does AT&T fixed wireless cost?

AT&T fixed wireless internet costs \$70 per month on its own. You can also bundle with certain AT&T mobile plans to save \$10 per month. Equipment is free, but you'll have to pay \$99 upfront for installation. We've also seen reports of up to \$28 in additional hidden fees, though we couldn't confirm this. We recommend asking a sales representative what you'll actually see on your internet bill before signing up.

Check out our tips for [saving money on internet](#).

SEO content to write

Pricing page SEO

Pricing page title: AT&T fixed wireless internet pricing 2023 - Costs and fees for AT&T fixed wireless | Switchful

Meta description: AT&T fixed wireless internet gives you a discount if you have a mobile plan, but it's still pricier than competitors. Is AT&T fixed wireless worth the cost? Find out.

Alternatives page SEO

Alternatives page title: AT&T fixed wireless internet alternatives - Compare providers | Switchful

Meta description: AT&T fixed wireless is better than DSL or satellite, but it's pricier than T-Mobile and Verizon 5G. See AT&T fixed wireless competitors.