

Home Network Security Checklist

Checklist · Stop Treating Your Home Network Like Public Wi-Fi.

Your router is the front door to every device in your home. Default settings = unlocked. Spend 30 minutes here once and protect everything that touches your Wi-Fi.

Router Hardening (10 Min)

- Logged into router admin panel (usually 192.168.0.1 or 192.168.1.1).
- Default admin password changed to a long unique one.
- Firmware updated to latest version. Auto-update enabled if supported.
- Wi-Fi security set to WPA3 (or WPA2-AES if WPA3 isn't available). NOT WEP, NOT 'mixed.'
- WPS (Wi-Fi Protected Setup) turned OFF.
- UPnP turned OFF.
- Remote management / cloud admin turned OFF.
- Router restarted after settings saved.

Guest Network For IoT (10 Min)

- Separate guest Wi-Fi network enabled with a different password.
- Smart speakers, doorbells, cameras, thermostats all moved to guest network.
- Phones, laptops, work devices stay on the main network.
- Guest network has 'Allow guests to see each other' DISABLED.
- Guest network is rate-limited if your router supports it (prevents IoT bandwidth hogging).

Wi-Fi Naming & Visibility

- SSID renamed to something neutral — no name, address, or apartment number.
- If you don't broadcast SSID (hidden network), accept that some devices struggle to connect.
- MAC filtering NOT relied on as security (MAC addresses spoof easily) — use WPA3 instead.

DNS-Level Protection

- DNS set to a privacy-respecting + filtering provider (NextDNS, Cloudflare 1.1.1.1, Pi-hole).
- Block list configured to filter ads, trackers, and known-malicious domains.
- Optionally: filter adult content for kids' devices via DNS profile.
- DoH (DNS over HTTPS) enabled if your router supports it — prevents ISP DNS snooping.

Maintenance

- Calendar reminder set: check router firmware every 90 days.

- Wi-Fi password rotated annually (or after any guest you don't fully trust).
- Router replaced every 5 years (older routers stop receiving security updates).
- If you have a mesh system, all nodes are on the same firmware version.

PRO TIP

Set Your Phone To Auto-Lock In 30 Seconds.

Single biggest defense against opportunistic device theft. iPhone: Settings → Display & Brightness → Auto-Lock. Android: Settings → Display → Screen Timeout.

Visit [Making Sense Of Security](#) →