

# IS YOUR NETWORK HOLIDAY-READY?

The holidays bring us a lot of exciting things: delicious food, fun gifts, and guests who are probably going to ask for your Wi-Fi password.

Before your family and friends arrive this holiday, make sure your network is secure with these simple steps:

## Remember:

Every router is different. If you're having trouble with any of these steps, visit the manufacturer's website.



### 1

## OPEN YOUR ROUTER CONSOLE

While connected to Wi-Fi, enter your router's IP address into the address bar on your internet browser.

### Don't know your IP?

Router IP addresses aren't unique. A quick web search of your router's brand should give you the info you need.

### 2

## LOG IN

Enter your username and password. If you've never changed these, there's a good chance they're printed on the back of your router or found on the manufacturer's website.



### 3

## FIND THE SECURITY SETTINGS

Your router might call this section something like Wireless Security.



### 4

## RENAME YOUR ROUTER

If you haven't already, give your network a new name or SSID. This name can be as simple or silly as you want, but don't include any personal information.

### 5

## USE A PASSPHRASE

Use a passphrase for your router's password. This is especially important if you've never changed it before!

### A passphrase:

- is a sequence of mixed words, with or without spaces
- does not use common expressions like song titles or lyrics
- is at least 4 words and 15 characters long
- doesn't need any special characters or capitals

If your router puts restrictions on your password, try to use at least 8-12 characters, upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols, with no dictionary words or personal info.

### 6

## CHANGE YOUR ENCRYPTION

Under the Network Authentication setting, choose **WPA2-PSK** or **WPA2-Personal**.

If you don't see a WPA2-PSK or WPA2-Personal option, you may need to upgrade your router to stay as secure as possible.

### 7

## CREATE A GUEST NETWORK

Keep your personal network protected. Create a separate guest network to allow your smart devices and visitors access to the Internet, but not your sensitive personal information!

Many routers have a checkbox in the settings to turn on a guest network. Make sure to give your guest network a unique name and password.

### 8

## SAVE YOUR SETTINGS

Click **Save** or **Apply** to save the changes. (You may need to reboot your router.)

### 9

## GET CONNECTED (AGAIN)

Connect your personal devices to your personal network and your smart devices (and your holiday visitors!) to your guest network.

Securing your Wi-Fi networks is an important step to having a cyber safe holiday season!

Get more tips at:

[GETCYBERSAFE.CA/cybersafeholidays](https://getcybersafe.ca/cybersafeholidays)