

Wi-Fi Optimization Checklist

The quickest wins for improving Wi-Fi speed and stability — no new hardware required.

From the TechODash Wi-Fi Performance & Optimization series. Every item here is free.

PLACEMENT & BASICS

- **Router is central, elevated, and out in the open**
Off the floor, away from cabinets and metal appliances — this alone fixes more dead zones than any setting.
- **Router and modem get restarted monthly**
Clears minor glitches that quietly accumulate over weeks of continuous uptime.

SETTINGS TO CHECK

- **Channel width matches how crowded your area actually is**
Wider isn't always better — narrower channels often perform more reliably in dense apartments.
- **Wi-Fi channel is manually selected, not left on auto**
A quick scan with a free Wi-Fi analyzer app shows which channel is genuinely least congested right now.
- **Devices are assigned to the right band on purpose**
Nearby devices belong on 5 GHz or 6 GHz; distant or low-bandwidth devices belong on 2.4 GHz.

THE ONE ADVANCED FIX WORTH KNOWING

- **Smart Queue Management (SQM) is enabled if your router supports it**
This is the setting that actually fixes stutter under load — QoS alone doesn't solve it.
- **Firmware is up to date**
Manufacturers regularly ship real performance fixes through firmware, not just security patches.

WANT TO GO DEEPER?

The SOHO 2026 Guide covers the full picture: network architecture, device segmentation, remote work security, and AI scam defense — with checklists and templates for home offices and small businesses.

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