

# Should fiber optic cables be paired with a regular router



## AI Overview

Fiber optic cables cannot plug directly into a standard router; an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) is required to convert the light signals into electrical signals your router can use.

### How Fiber Internet Connects to a Router

Fiber optic internet transmits data as pulses of light through glass or plastic fibers, which standard routers cannot interpret directly. To bridge this gap, your Internet Service Provider (ISP) installs an Optical Network Terminal (ONT). The ONT converts the optical signals from the fiber into electrical signals that can travel over Ethernet cables to your router. Once the ONT is in place, you connect it to your router using a standard Ethernet cable. Most modern routers have a WAN (Wide Area Network) Ethernet port, which is compatible with the Ethernet output from the ONT. This setup allows your existing router to manage your home network, including Wi-Fi distribution and device connections.

### Router Compatibility Considerations

While many existing routers can work with fiber internet, there are important factors to consider:

- **WAN Port Speed:** For fiber plans up to 1 Gbps, a router with a Gigabit Ethernet WAN port is sufficient. For multi-gigabit plans (2 Gbps, 5 Gbps, or 10 Gbps), your router...

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The glass carries beams of light that transmit the data. This state-of-the-art method affects what equipment fiber-optic

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Any standard router, including the primary unit of a mesh Wi-Fi system, will work at its full potential with any standard

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