**Home internet data vs mobile data**

**How is home data different from mobile data?**

Most people have two different and separate internet connections:

1. A home internet (data) connection, which everyone at home can share. Your home internet data comes through your home’s router and is shared by all the devices in your home.
2. A mobile data connection, which is just for your mobile phone when you are out and about. Mobile internet data comes to your phone through a nearby mobile phone tower. Your mobile internet data is used only by your mobile phone.

If you don’t want to use your mobile data when you are out, you can turn it off or ensure that your device is set-up to connect to Wi-Fi when it is available.

You will have a separate data allowance for your mobile phone and home internet.

Even if an internet service provider bundles your home internet and mobile phone into a single bill, the data allowance for each will appear separately.

**How will I know what is better for my needs?**

It is important to understand how and where you will be using your mobile device.

For example, if you plan to use your device primarily at home while connected to Wi-Fi, or to make calls or text only, you may need more home internet data (and less mobile data) than a friend who uses their device to make video calls while moving around the community. The types of activities you use your device for, and how you connect to the internet, will have an impact on how much data you use.

Your wireless service provider can answer questions about their specific plans and help you pick the one best suited to your activities and needs.

**Which of my devices uses which kind of data?**

The two kinds of data – home internet and mobile data – are used by different devices. Here’s a list of common devices that use each type of data.

**Home internet data** - Devices usually intended to stay in your home all the time use home internet, including:

* Desktop PCs
* Laptops
* Smart TVs
* Tablets
* Wireless speakers
* Security cameras

Your internet service provider will be able to answer any questions you may have about your internet data. Check with your internet service provider to see what tools they provide to help you understand and manage your home internet data usage.

**Mobile data** - Devices usually intended to go out and about use mobile data, including:

* Mobile devices (or smartphones)
* Some laptop computers
* Some tablets
* Some smartwatches
* Some medical alert devices

Your wireless service provider will be able to answer any questions you may have about your internet data. Check with your wireless service provider to see what tools they provide to help you understand and manage your mobile data usage.