



7 Ways To Save Money On Your Internet Bill

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While we realize it's a "first world problem," a good home internet connection seems vital to our existence. However, that doesn't mean you have to pay for some huge bundle deal or sign a 5-year contract to get a decent rate.

According to Chris Brantner, Contributor for US News, below are 7 ways to trim your bill.

1) Arm yourself with competitors' prices

The easiest way to lower your internet bill is to do your homework. Use a price comparison tool, such as [CutCableToday](#), to compare internet service providers (ISPs) in your area. Find out how much each ISP charges for standalone internet. Armed with that price information, contact your current provider and let the customer service representative know what the competition is charging. Your provider doesn't want to lose your business, so they might be willing to offer you the same deal to keep you as a customer.

2) Check promos

If promotional pricing is available, you may be eligible for a temporary price break. This could give you six months or even a year of price cuts on your account. Often, you can renegotiate this deal when your promotional price is ending.

3) Lower your speed

You might think it's best to get the internet package with the highest possible speed, but for most homes a high-speed account ends up being a waste of money. Most homes can get away with between 20 and 30 megabits per second (MBPS) of internet speed.

4) Consider bundling

There are some great bundling deals out there if you search carefully. Just remember, the quoted price often leaves out hidden fees, so ask for the price with everything included. Also, consider what your bundle price will be once the promotional period ends.

5) Get your own modem and router

When you sign up for service, your equipment is given to you, but it's important to realize you don't own the equipment...you're renting it. Your modem/router combination will cost you around \$10 per month. So, if you buy your own modem, you can shave that price from your bill. You'll likely find yourself spending around \$150 to get your own modem and router, so it will take you about a year to realize the savings.

6) Threaten to cancel

Whether you plan to cancel or not, sometimes suggesting it is enough to get your internet bill lowered. Most major telecommunications companies have specific customer service departments that focus on keeping customers. It's these agents that have the power to offer you discounts, special deals, or even lower your bill. When you call, ask for the retention department.

7) Use a bill negotiation service

Don't feel like calling and negotiating? There are several services out there that will help negotiate your bills. The process is pretty simple - you send them your bills, and they call and renegotiate on your behalf. If they save you money, they charge you a percentage of your savings. If they can't, you don't pay. There's really nothing to lose.

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