

Can a fiber optic router be used without being plugged in



Overview

Most fiber ISPs, including Mercury, provide an ONT that connects directly to your router via an Ethernet cable. Now to address the main question: can you use a modem without a traditional cable line?

The answer is both yes and no, depending on several factors. **Wireless Modems and Routers:** Certain wireless modems, which incorporate routers, can connect to your ISP through technologies like LTE or 5G without. Simply put, a Router Mode ONU is an all-in-one fiber gateway. This means it performs multiple critical tasks in a single, sleek device. In this guide, we'll explain router compatibility, setup steps and whether upgrading your router is necessary to maximize fiber speeds. **Do You Need Both a Modem and a Router for Fiber?**

Fiber internet, often referred to as fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) or fiber-to-the-premises (FTTP), represents the pinnacle of broadband technology. Unlike traditional copper-based internet services like DSL or cable, fiber optic internet utilizes thin. Because fiber doesn't use electrical signals, a modem is unnecessary; instead, an ONT is required to handle the signal conversion.

Article Content

Jan 07, 2026

Do You Need a Modem for Fiber Internet? | BroadbandSearch

Fiber internet does not use a traditional cable modem. Instead, it requires an Optical Network Terminal (ONT) — a device supplied by your fiber provider that converts the light-based ...

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Can You Use a Modem Without Cable? The Comprehensive Guide

Yes, you can use a modem without a cable connection, but it depends on the type of modem and the service you intend to use. There are two main types of modems: DSL and fiber-optic.

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Router Mode ONU: The Ultimate Guide to Your All-in-One Fiber ...

While many users simply plug and play, understanding the Router Mode ONU can empower you to optimize your network for performance, security, and convenience. Simply put, a ...

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Do Fiber Internet Connections Require a Modem? | EPB

The short answer is no. Fiber internet connections do not use traditional modems. Instead, they typically rely on an ONT, which is short for Optical Network Terminal, or a fiber optic modem. These devices ...

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Probably a stupid question, but will fiber be able to plug ...

They will likely run fiber to your house and then from there use a converter to convert fiber to Coax or Ethernet. Fiber won't plug directly into your router.

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Modem or Router: Essential for Fiber Internet?

Your router also has several LAN (Local Area Network) ports where you can plug in devices via Ethernet cable for a wired connection. In summary, for fiber internet, you need an ONT (provided by your ISP) ...

Jul 19, 2025

Does Fiber Internet Need a Modem?

Fiber internet doesn't need a modem but requires an ONT to convert fiber signals for your router. Learn how fiber ONT works and how to set it up properly.

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Does Fiber Internet Need a Modem (2026)?

Many people ask this question because they're used to traditional setups involving coaxial cables and DOCSIS modems. With fiber, the infrastructure changes — and so does the hardware. Here's the ...

Apr 02, 2026

Can I Use My Own Router for Fiber Internet? | Mercury Broadband

No, fiber optic internet uses an ONT (Optical Network Terminal) instead of a modem to convert light signals into an internet connection for your router.

Jan 12, 2026

Fiber internet routers and modems vs. ONTs | Switchful

In contrast to the modem situation, any router can work with a fiber connection. That's no exaggeration, either—if it has an Ethernet port (and nearly every modern router does), you can ...

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