

# HOME BROADBAND GUIDE

Helping you get your broadband  
set up and running

RURAL  
**BRITAIN**  
DESERVES  
BETTER BROADBAND



**Gigaclear**

Faster broadband for rural Britain

UP TO

**15X**

FASTER  
THAN

STANDARD BROADBAND\*

UP TO

**5X**

MORE  
RELIABLE  
THAN

STANDARD FIBRE\*

**PROUDLY  
BRINGING FASTER  
BROADBAND TO  
RURAL VILLAGES  
AND TOWNS OF  
BRITAIN**



\*For speed verification details visit [gigaclear.com/terms-verification](http://gigaclear.com/terms-verification)

# Welcome to Gigaclear

We are pleased you've chosen Gigaclear for your home broadband and hope you enjoy all the benefits a reliable full fibre network can bring to your home! You're in good hands – our team have been connecting households in rural communities since 2010 and we're proud of the role we're playing in narrowing the UK's digital divide.

This guide has been developed to help you get the most from your new full fibre connection and if you've opted to have Smart WiFi or our Home Phone service, this guide will also help you get these services set up too.

## What's inside

### Getting set up and started

- Your full fibre broadband set up ..... 4
- Router set up and indicator lights ..... 6
- Control your WiFi with the Linksys app ..... 8
- Setting up your Smart WiFi nodes ..... 10
- Getting the most out of your WiFi ..... 12
- Managing your Network Settings ..... 14
- Using your own router with Gigaclear ..... 16

### Smart WiFi

- Smart WiFi explained ..... 18
- Do I need more Smart WiFi nodes? ..... 20

### Improving performance

- Extra ways of improving performance ..... 22
- Reducing wireless interference ..... 23
- Create a wired mesh network ..... 24
- Using a wired connection to your devices ..... 25

**SKY Q** ..... 26

**Home Phone** ..... 28

**Customer Portal** ..... 30

**More help** ..... 32

# Your full fibre broadband set up

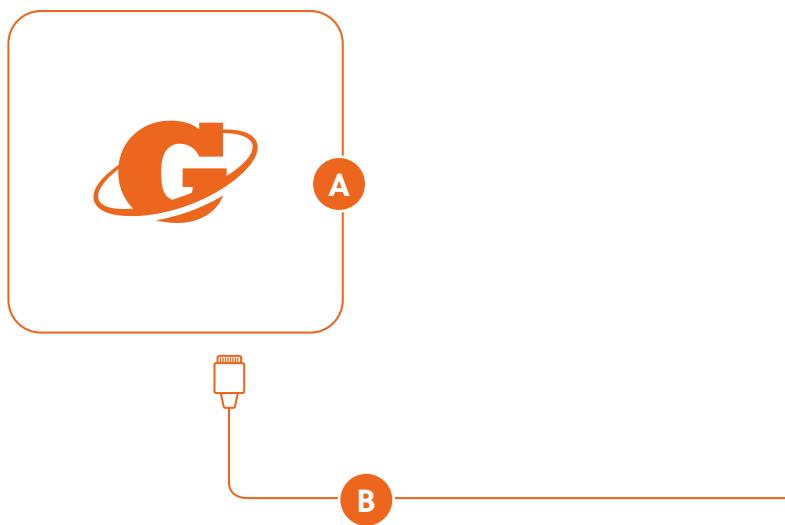
## Quick set up summary

These are the 5 overall steps you need to take to get up and running. We cover these in more detail throughout our guide.

- 1 Connect up and plug in:** Connect up your WiFi system, like in this diagram, to the full fibre connection
- 2 Start up the router:** Get the router up and running (see pages 6-7)
- 3 Download the app:** Download the Linksys app to start the WiFi set up (see pages 8-9)
- 4 Set up optional Smart WiFi:** For customers who have opted for Smart WiFi (see pages 10-13)
- 5 Set up optional Home Phone:** For customers who have opted for Home Phone (see pages 28-29)

**Note:** For the majority of installations, points 1 and 2 will be completed by the engineer.

- A Wall-mounted fibre box:** Brings internet connection into your home
- B Ethernet cable:** Connects fibre box to the router, and the router to wired devices
- C Router:** Connects your devices to the internet, and to each other within the home network, either via WiFi or Ethernet cables
- D Node:** If you have Smart WiFi, you will receive an additional router. This can be used as a Smart WiFi node to expand WiFi coverage - (see pages 10-13)





# Router set up and indicator lights

Getting your router started is easy, simply press the power button and wait for the indicator light to display a solid blue light. Then you're ready to download the Linksys app (see pages 8-9).

See the table on the right for a guide to the indicator lights and what they mean.



Each router/  
WiFi node has an  
indicator light which  
is positioned on the  
top of the unit



Light Status	Colour	Description
 Solid	Purple	Ready for set up
 Blinking		Bluetooth® set up is in progress with the Linksys app
 Solid	Blue	Connected to the internet - the router is online, and everything is good
 Blinking		Booting up Wi-Fi Protected Set up™ (WPS) pairing is in progress
 Solid	Yellow	Weak signal (on WiFi node) You may need to move your WiFi node closer to another node
 Blinking		WPS pairing has failed
 Solid	Red	No internet - check your internet connection
 Blinking		<p>When used as a router:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not connected to the modem</li> <li>• Check the ethernet cable going from your Linksys node/router to your wall-mounted Gigaclear fibre box</li> </ul> <p>When used as a WiFi node:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The WiFi node is disconnected from the network</li> <li>• Check if your router is online</li> </ul>
 Solid	White	Automatic set up is in progress

# Control your WiFi with the Linksys app

To get the most out of the WiFi it is advisable to download the Linksys app. The Linksys app is available on iOS and Android. Set it up on any mobile device to manage your home WiFi anytime, anywhere. Once the router has been installed and your Gigaclear service has been activated, follow these instructions to set up the Linksys app:



**1 Download App:** Download the Linksys app at App stores on your phone (Play on Android - requires Android 9.0 and later, App Store on Apple - requires iOS 14.1 or later)

**2 Select Network (Apple iOS phones only):** When you open the app, it may request access to your local network. Select "OK".

In your settings screen, ensure "Local Network" is selected, then switch back to the Linksys app

**3 Start set up:** Select "manage your WiFi" at bottom of page. If you have already set up a Linksys cloud account, select "email" and enter your log in details and proceed to add an existing router or mesh WiFi system (similar to Step 5). If you don't, select "Create an account"

**4 Create Account:** You must enter your email address and a create a password and select "create account". You can add your mobile number or skip this step and select "next"

**5 Add your Mesh WiFi system:** Select "Add an existing router or mesh WiFi system"

**6 Add router password:** The information containing your password can be found on the label on the base of your main router (see example below):

Name: Gigaclear\_C0E6

Password: qWezXyL1gz

Recovery key: 24565

Depending on the firmware of your router, the password will look like one of the following (try option a. first):

- >Password+Recovery Key (e.g. qWezXyL1gz24565)
- Password only (e.g. qWezXyL1gz)

**7 Add router:** Select "find my router"

**8 Set up finished:** Once the app creates log in access and configures your WiFi network, you will be logged in and will be able to see the app dashboard with details of your home network - see page 14-15 for more information



# Setting up your Smart WiFi nodes

If you have purchased a Smart WiFi service, please follow these instructions to set up any Smart WiFi nodes:

**Note:** Ensure that you have installed and set up the Linksys app (pages 8-9) before you begin this process.

- 1 Power up:** Plug the additional node into a power socket in the area of the home where you wish to improve WiFi coverage
- 2 Connect:** Ensure that your mobile phone is connected to the WiFi
- 3 Open app:** Open the Linksys app on your mobile phone. Once in the app, open the menu. You will then need to select - Add Nodes to (YOUR NETWORK NAME)
- 4 Bluetooth set up:** If the app prompts you to turn on Bluetooth®, please enable it. (you may need to turn on Bluetooth® manually)
- 5 Node search:** The app will then search for the node. When the app has found the additional WiFi node, the purple LED light on the WiFi node will start to flash. Don't move the mobile phone or either node during this period

**6 Node added:** Wait until the node has been added to your WiFi set up – do not move your phone, the router or the node during this time. The Linksys app will advise whether the node's current position is good or whether it needs to be moved closer to/ further from the router

**7 Connection complete:** Once connected, the LED light on the additional node should turn a solid blue

## Troubleshooting:

If you are unable to run the app for any reason, you may instead use the five-button-press method to set up your nodes:

- Gather the nodes together within 1m of the main unit, power them all up.
- Swiftly press the reset button on the router (the unit connected to the Gigaclear wall-mounted box) 5 times in a row. The lights will start changing as each node is then initialised
- Leave these for a few minutes until all nodes have achieved a steady blue. You may then relocate the WiFi nodes

## Guide to Node placement

### Ideal placement



WiFi node is as far as possible from the router, whilst still maintaining a strong signal and covering the parts of the home the router can't reach.

**Tip:** Use the WiFi signal strength indicator to make sure your WiFi nodes are not placed improperly or too far apart:

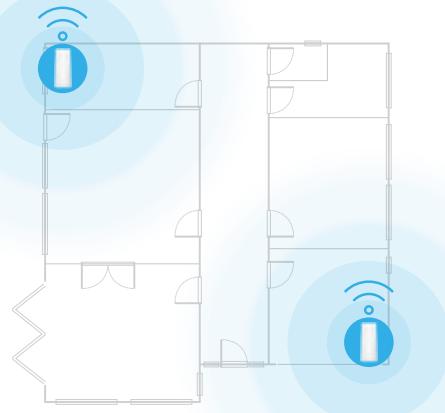
- 1 Open the Linksys app and log in
- 2 Tap on the menu, and then go to Network Administration
- 3 You will see a signal strength icon next to each node (which will update every 10 minutes)
- 4 If the WiFi node signal is **Fair** or **Poor**, consider relocating or moving it closer to the router or another node, then re-check your signal

### Poor placement



If the router and any WiFi nodes are too close, it can result in poor WiFi coverage and WiFi interference issues.

If the router and any WiFi nodes are too far apart, the WiFi nodes will only receive a weak (or no) signal, resulting in poor WiFi performance or WiFi dead spots.



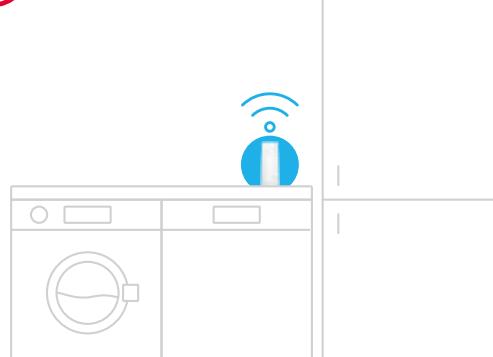
# Getting the most out of your WiFi



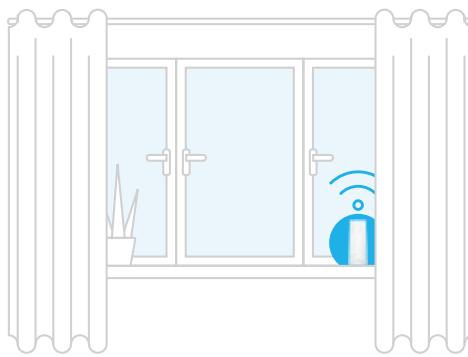
Router placed in high position above a desk



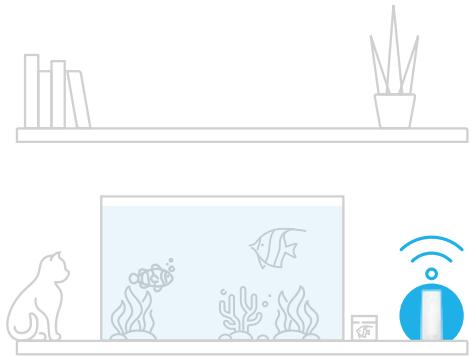
Router placed too close to large objects



Router placed next to window



Router placed next to body of water



The WiFi coverage in your home is affected by the environment around it. In an ideal situation without obstructions, the coverage pattern is a sphere with the router or node at its centre. However, walls, floors, and other obstructions can block or reflect the signal, making it difficult to achieve the ideal coverage.

### Ways to improve your WiFi performance

-  **Right rooms:** Place your router and nodes in the right places across the home (see page 11)
-  **Go higher:** Place higher up, above desk or waist height, and consider using wall mounts for better signal transmission
-  **Reduce interference:** Optimise the wireless channels used by your router. (see page 23 - Reducing wireless interference)
-  **Use your floors:** In properties with 2 or more floors, offset the positioning of the router and any nodes across the floors so they are not directly above or below each other
-  **Disable WiFi adapters:** Disable any unused WiFi adaptors in smart appliances which may cause interference

**Please note:** WiFi speed tests may show lower speeds than the actual achieved speed, depending on the WiFi adaptor in the measuring device.

### What to try and avoid

-  **Closed spaces:** Avoid placing your router and any nodes inside cupboards or tight corners
-  **Thick walls:** Try and avoid thick walls that can weaken the signal between the rooms. Note wood doesn't block as much signal as concrete/stone walling but can still have an effect
-  **Insulation:** Metallicised insulation like Celotex blocks WiFi signal
-  **Large reflective objects:** Avoid placing your router or nodes near large objects or reflective surfaces like fridge freezers, large furniture, or windows
-  **Interfering devices:** Avoid placing router or nodes near analogue 2.4GHz transmitting devices that may cause interference and severely impact WiFi performance such as microwave ovens, cordless phones, baby monitors and wireless speakers
-  **Water:** Don't place router or nodes near bodies of water which block the WiFi signal, like water tanks or fish tanks
-  **Wireless extenders:** Don't use wireless extenders with a mesh network installation as they can cause interference and impact WiFi performance

# Managing your Network Settings

You can use the Linksys app to access and activate useful features to help you get the most from your home broadband.

## What can I do on the Linksys app?

### Parental Controls

The Parental Controls feature allows you to restrict a user's internet access within your network. With this, you can pause internet access, schedule a pause and block specific websites.

### Pause Internet Access

Pauses internet access of a device at any moment. For step-by-step instructions visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support)

### Schedule a Pause

Creates a schedule to block internet access for a device at a certain time and day. You can also create multiple schedules for a device. There are no limitations. For step-by-step instructions visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support)

### Block Specific Websites

Block specific websites that you don't want your children to access. For step-by-step instructions visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support).

### Guest Access

Guest Access provides a method to allow others to use your internet connection without revealing your entire network. This enables guests to connect to the internet, but they will not be able to view or reach other devices on your network such as computers, external storage, or connected devices.

For a step-by-step guide on deactivating Guest Access visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support).

## Device Prioritisation

Your Linksys router can give devices on your home network priority for internet access, by using the Priority feature. You can use this to assign priority to devices used for work, streaming or online gaming. The rest of the devices on your network will share the remaining bandwidth.

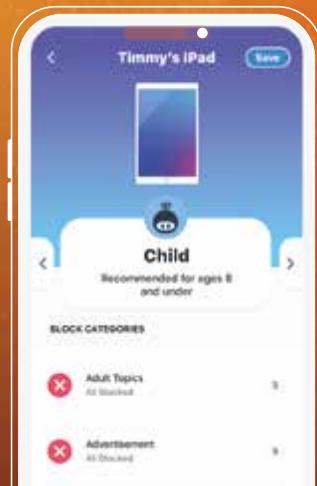
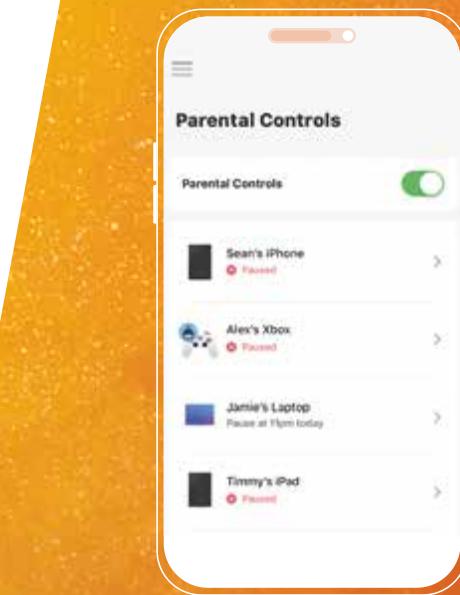
For a step-by step guide on how to use the Priority feature visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support).

**Please note:** For broadband packages delivering speeds of 300Mbps and higher, best performance will be achieved by leaving the Priority feature disabled.

## Changing your WiFi password

- 1 Log into App:** Connect your mobile device to your router's WiFi then open the Linksys app and log in
- 2 Go to Menu:** Tap the menu icon in the upper-left corner, and tap "Network Administration"
- 3 Password:** Tap on "Change Router Password and Hint"
- 4 Change Password:** Tap the field under Router Password to enter your new personalised password. You can also add a hint to help you remember your password
- 5 Save:** Tap "Save" to apply changes

Links to all support materials related to the Linksys app, features and routers can be found here: [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support).



# Using your own router with Gigaclear

You may want to use your own router with our broadband service. In most cases, this is possible.

Please check the specifications of your chosen router to ensure that it supports IPV4, that it can accept the WAN IP address dynamically, and that it has a Gigabit WAN port.

To use your own router with Gigaclear full fibre broadband:

- 1 If your Gigaclear wall-mounted fibre box looks like A or B, contact our Customer Operations team to put it into "bridge mode". Otherwise proceed to Step 2
- 2 Disconnect the ethernet cable from the Linksys router (the other end is connected to the Gigaclear wall-mounted fibre box)
- 3 Plug the ethernet cable into the WAN port on your own preferred router (check your own router instructions to confirm the correct port)
- 4 Check your router settings. Make sure that the WAN port is set to pick up an IP address automatically using DHCP. (Check your router operating instructions for how to do this)

The process is now complete, the system may take a few minutes to configure the settings. If you experience any issues call us and speak to the Customer Operations team.

**Important:** As you are using your own router, we will be unable to support with any issues which are related specifically to the router. In this case we recommend that you consult directly with the manufacturer of your router to resolve any issues.

## Check your fibre box



A. Genexis



B. Genexis



C. DKT



D. Adtran



# Smart WiFi explained

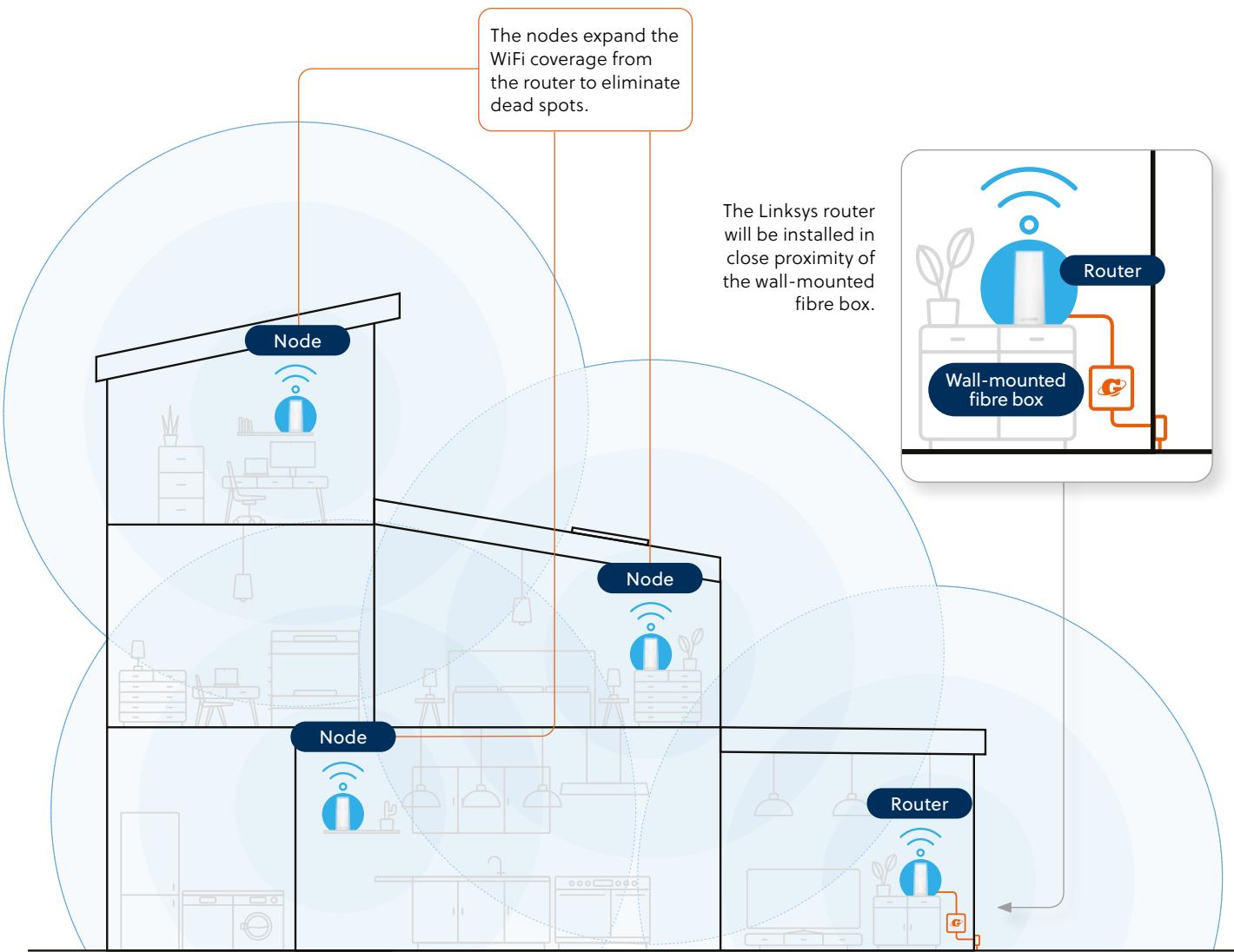
If you've opted to take our Smart WiFi service, this can help you improve WiFi coverage and eliminate dead spots throughout the home. Here is how it works:

- Our Smart WiFi services come with one or more nodes that look like the router
- WiFi nodes are connected wirelessly to the router to form a WiFi mesh network using the mobile app
- WiFi nodes are placed appropriately around the home to extend WiFi coverage over a traditional single-router set up
- The WiFi nodes operate seamlessly with the router and each other, to provide each device in your home with the most reliable, fastest connection at any given moment, even when the device (e.g. phone, laptop) is being moved around the home

**The Linksys router**

Any provided in addition to the router act as WiFi nodes to create a wireless mesh network.





Number of WiFi nodes required will vary dependent on number of bedrooms, floors and shape of home. Above is a typical layout in a 5 bedroom home, on three floors. Coverage of all homes cannot be guaranteed.

Wall-mounted fibre box

# Do I need more Smart WiFi nodes?

For the best WiFi speeds and coverage, it is likely that you will need more than just the single router. Many of our broadband packages come with more than one router (Smart WiFi). We also offer Smart WiFi Plus and Smart WiFi Max for greater coverage. Here is a guide based on the size and layout of your home; as every home's layout and construction is unique, this guidance is only approximate.

## Choosing the right Smart WiFi Tier for you

### Smart WiFi ready:

For smaller sized homes and includes only the main router.

### Smart WiFi:

With 1 Smart WiFi node for improved WiFi coverage.

### Smart WiFi Plus:

Increased WiFi coverage for larger properties with 2 Smart WiFi nodes.

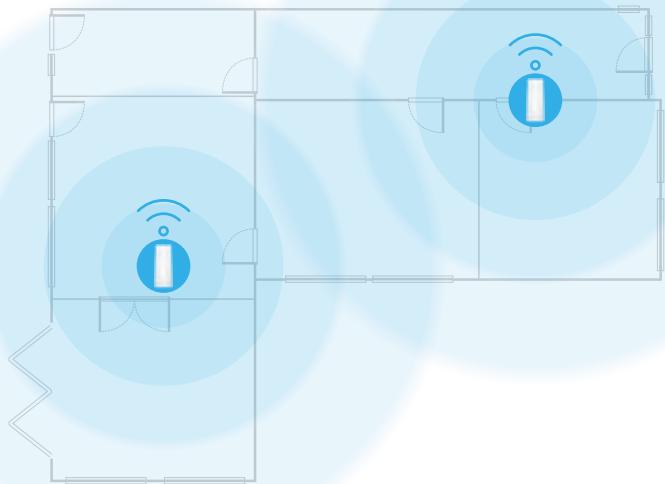
### Smart WiFi Max:

Even greater coverage with 3 Smart WiFi nodes for the largest homes.

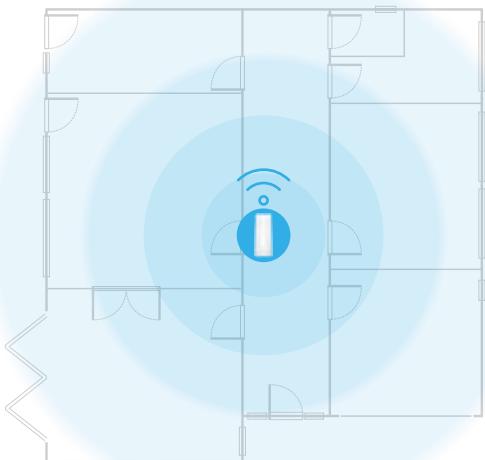
Number of floors	1 to 2 Floors		3 Floors
Shape of house	Square/ Rectangular	L-Shaped	Square/ Rectangular
Number of bedrooms	1 - 2	3 - 4	5+
Smart WiFi ready	Smart WiFi (1 node)	Smart WiFi (1 node)	Smart WiFi (1 node)
Smart WiFi (1 node)	Smart WiFi Plus (2 nodes)	Smart WiFi Plus (2 nodes)	Smart WiFi Plus (2 nodes)
Smart WiFi Plus (2 nodes)	Smart WiFi Max (3 nodes)	Smart WiFi Max (3 nodes)	Smart WiFi Max (3 nodes)

**Please note:** The number of Smart WiFi nodes provided in each tier as described above are in addition to the router included with your broadband service. The recommendations for Smart WiFi aims to give at least 10Mbps WiFi speed in every room of your home.

'L' shaped



Square

**Please note:**

- Homes with 3 or more floors will typically require additional WiFi nodes
- Homes with internal walls that are unusually thick or constructed from dense materials that block WiFi signals may require additional nodes or a wired mesh network (see page 24)
- Larger homes may require additional WiFi nodes

# Extra ways of improving performance

Hopefully, you have the WiFi set up to get the performance you require from your broadband. However, you may still feel that you need to further improve your broadband performance. Here are three additional ways of improving the broadband performance:

- 1 Reducing wireless interference
- 2 Create a wired mesh network
- 3 Use a wired connection to your devices



## Reducing wireless interference

To reduce wireless interference and enhance your WiFi performance, consider changing the wireless channel on your router. Wireless routers transmit data using radio waves, but interference can occur when other devices, such as microwave ovens, cordless phones, speakers, or neighbouring WiFi signals, operate on the same frequency.

By selecting a less crowded channel on your router, you can minimise the likelihood of interference from other devices or your neighbour's WiFi network.

Our Linksys routers offer a **Channel Finder** feature that automatically selects the least congested channel for your router and WiFi nodes. To learn how to activate this feature visit [gigaclear.com/linksys-support](http://gigaclear.com/linksys-support).

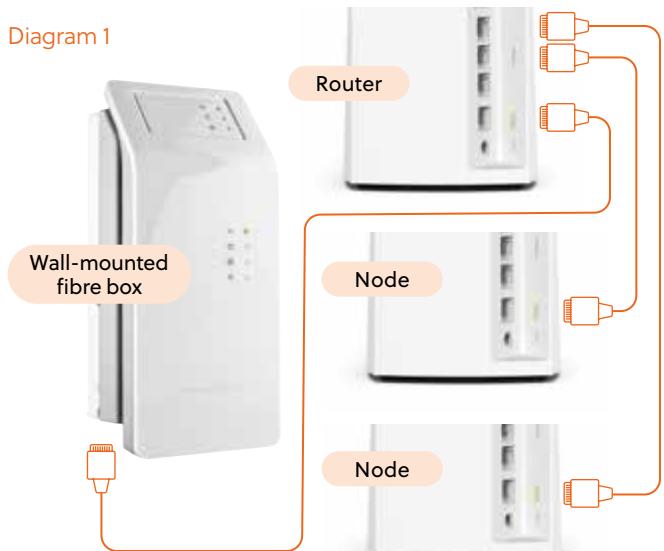
Keep in mind that while changing the wireless channel can help, there may be other factors impacting your WiFi performance. Consider it as one of several steps you can take to enhance your overall WiFi experience.

## Create a wired mesh network

The Linksys router and nodes can be connected with ethernet cables to increase the range and speed of your network and reduce the risk of wireless interference. It is especially useful if you live in a house with thick internal walls that can block or severely weaken the WiFi signal.

- 1 Set up router:** Set up the router using the Linksys app (if not yet set up). This will usually have been done for you by an installer when your Gigaclear broadband service was installed
- 2 Add node:** Add the WiFi node using the Linksys app as in a wireless set up (see page 10)
- 3 Position node:** Once the node has been added to the mesh system, move it to your desired location then connect it to a power outlet
- 4 Plug in cable:** Connect an ethernet cable to the WAN port labelled "Internet" on the WiFi node and connect the other end of the cable to one of the spare LAN ports (labelled "Ethernet") on the router. The router and node will automatically switch to a wired connection

Diagram 1

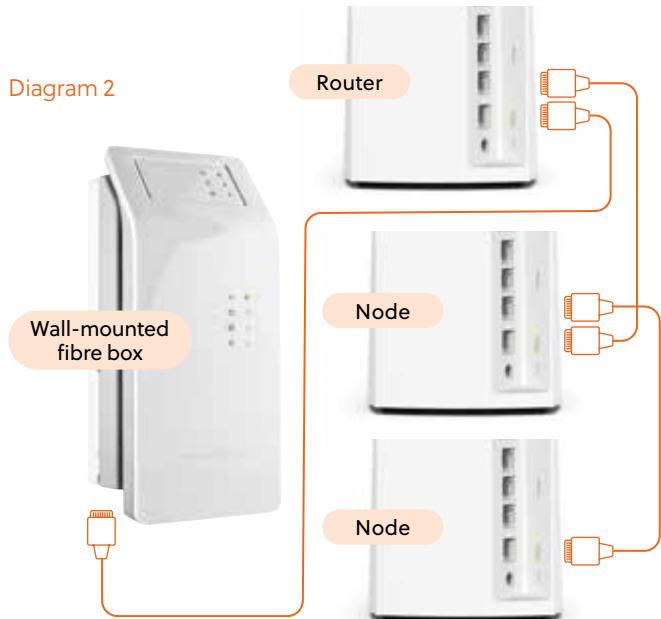


**Please note:** You can either connect nodes directly to the router (diagram 1) or daisy chain to each other (diagram 2).

Optional: If you need more ports, you can place a Gigabit unmanaged network switch (e.g. Linksys LGS105) between the router and any nodes.

Whilst not a part of our installation service, you can hire a local electrician or network specialist to set up your network in this way.

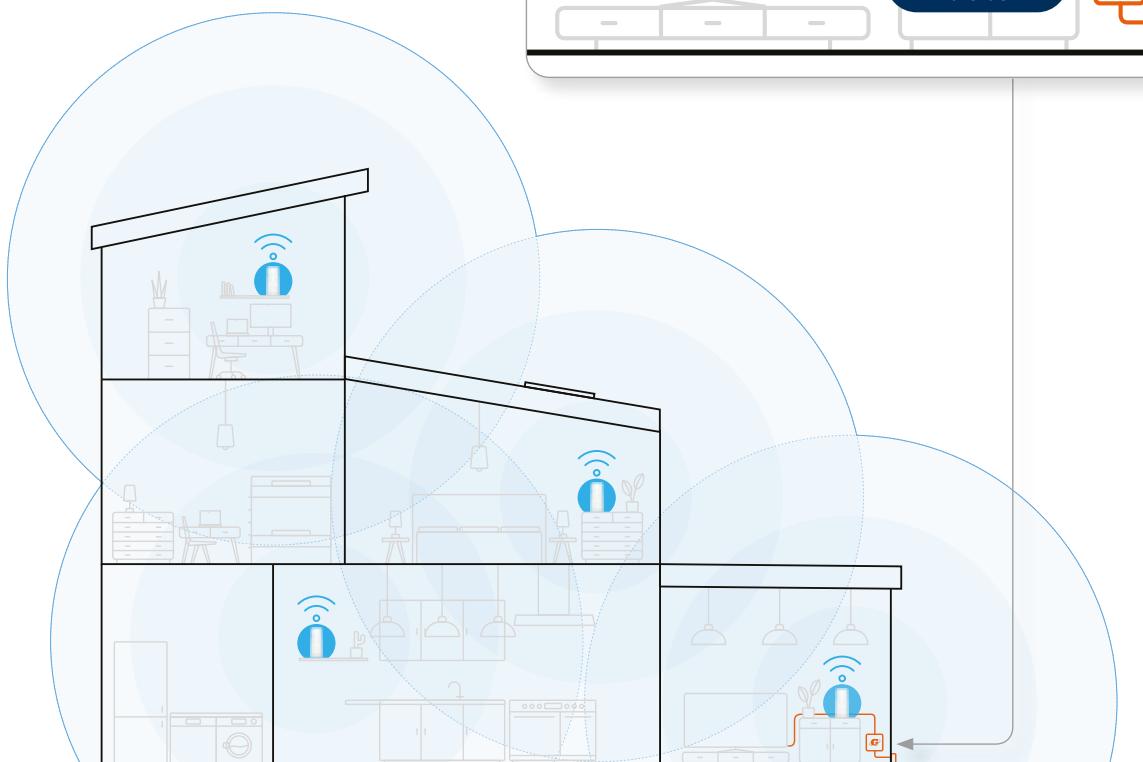
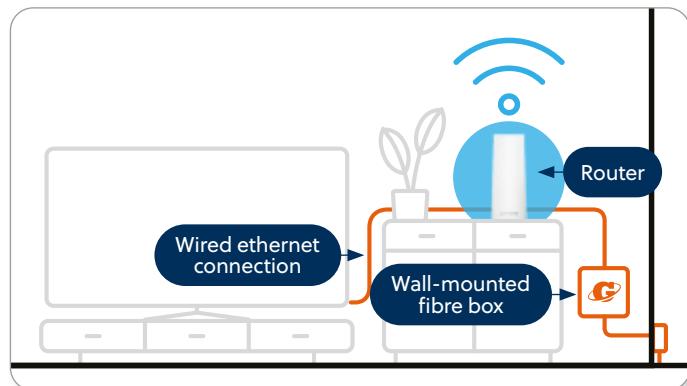
Diagram 2



## Using a wired connection to your devices

Directly connecting devices to the router or WiFi nodes using an ethernet cable gives you a much faster connection between your device and your router than using WiFi, and it can help avoid other WiFi-related issues.

You should consider this option for your most data-hungry devices wherever possible to alleviate WiFi traffic, particularly TV set-top boxes (e.g., Sky Q, YouView), Smart TVs and computers.



# SKY Q

Most customers who have SKY Q will receive uninterrupted service. However, some customers with SKY Q mini boxes (also known as SKY multiscreen) can experience issues caused by the Sky Q mesh network conflicting with home broadband mesh networks.

If you suffer from internet drop-outs or image pixelation or freezing of your TV image, we recommend that you disable the 2.4GHz WiFi on all SKY Q products **except** for the one closest to a Linksys router/WiFi node.



Follow steps 1-4 in quick succession with no breaks between steps.

- 1 Press "Home" on your SKY Q remote
- 2 Scroll down to "Settings"
- 3 When you arrive at "Settings" please do not press the enter/select button
- 4 Enter the sequence "001" and press the enter/select button

If it doesn't work, exit the menu and try again without pausing between any steps.

- 5 You will now enter the engineering menu. Click "OK" on the pop up message
- 6 Select the "Network" menu
- 7 Turn 2.4 GHz wireless to "OFF"
- 8 Select "Confirm" to save
- 9 Reboot the SKY Q box

**If you're having any further issues contact Customer Operations.**

**Please note:** This process is correct subject to user interface changes implemented from SKY. The latest instructions can be found in the support section of our website [gigaclear.com/support](http://gigaclear.com/support).

#### Other helpful tips:

- Software updates to your SKY Q boxes may result in the 2.4GHz being automatically turned back on. If this happens, disable it again following the instructions on the left
- Make sure your Smart WiFi mesh nodes are at least 3 feet from your SKY Q TV boxes to reduce interference
- Remove any WiFi extenders or powerline adaptors from your previous broadband set up to reduce interference
- Sky can see connectivity history for your system; should you continue to experience poor connectivity a Sky engineer visit should be arranged

#### Would you like to add Sky TV to your Gigaclear broadband?

If you're a Gigaclear customer and want to enjoy SKY TV, the best options are SKY Stream or SKY Glass. This is because full fibre broadband offers high-speed internet, which is essential for streaming Sky content without any issues. Additionally, Gigaclear's Smart WiFi mesh solution helps to stream SKY TV to any room in your home without compromising on quality or signal strength, to make the most of your SKY TV streaming experience.

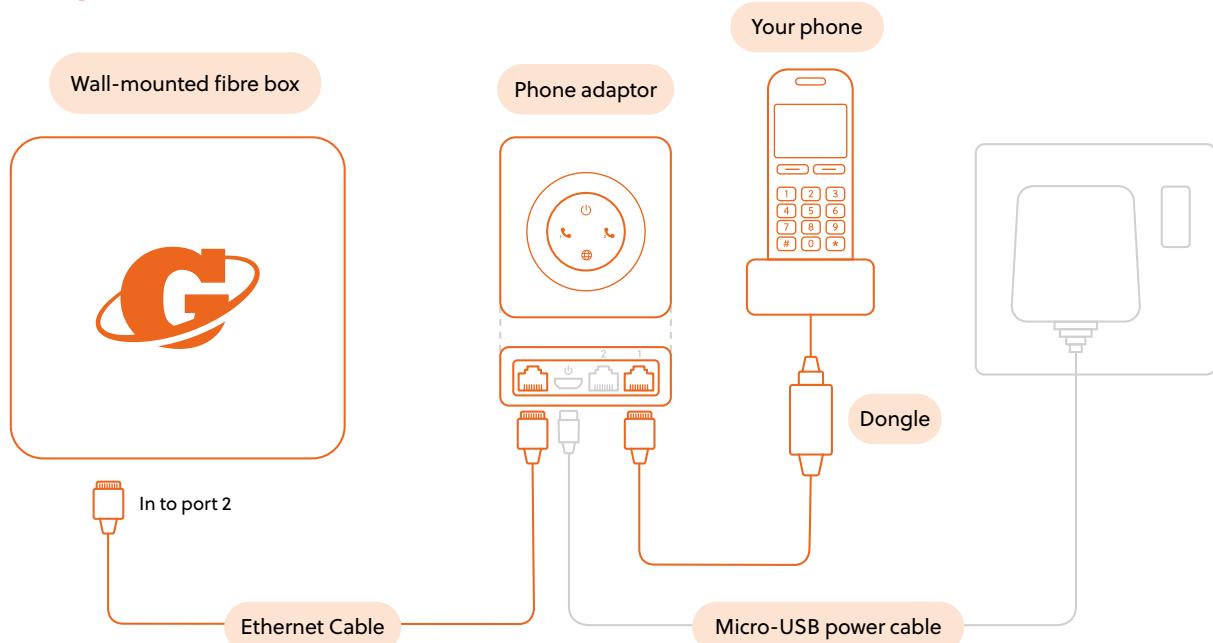
# Home Phone

The Home Phone service works like a conventional landline, but using the latest digital technology, whilst allowing you to keep your old landline number.

## How it works

Home Phone uses the full fibre connection to deliver calls by using an Analogue Telephone Adaptor (ATA), which connects to your Gigaclear wall-mounted fibre box with an ethernet cable. Then your existing phone handset or multi-phone base-station is connected to port 1 of the ATA with the supplied dongle.

## Setting it up



## Using Home Phone

### Accessing call history and charges

To view your itemised outgoing call history and charges:

- 1 Log in to the customer portal
- 2 Select "Home Phone Set up"
- 3 Select "My Call Summary"

### Managing call features

To enable or disable the included features such as call divert, voicemail, call blocking and premium number call barring:

- 1 Log in to the customer portal
- 2 Select "Home Phone Set up"
- 3 Adjust the feature settings on the screen to your preference

**Important:** If you are transferring your old phone number to the Gigaclear Home Phone service, your broadband must be active and the phone adapter plugged in and active before the number transfer process will commence. We will notify you by email once it is complete, typically after 7-10 days.

### For more help

To order the Home Phone service, change your call plan or transfer another number from your old phone provider call us on 01865 968 646, or log in to the Gigaclear customer portal by visiting [myaccount.gigaclear.com](http://myaccount.gigaclear.com).

You do not need to call us to activate your home phone service.

**Please note:** We do not recommend you purchase home phone if you are reliant on your landline due to disability or accessibility requirements and do not have alternative means to contact emergency services in the event of a power outage.



# Customer Portal

## How to access the Gigaclear customer portal

- Visit [www.Gigaclear.com](http://www.Gigaclear.com)
- Click on "My Account"
- Enter your username and password

**Note:** Your username is your customer number followed by @Gigaclear.com. For example, C000000@gigaclear.com.

If you have forgotten your customer number, you can find it on your broadband order confirmation document or your monthly bill.

Alternatively, click on "Forgot your username?", enter your email address, and we'll send you a reminder.

## What you can do in your customer portal

- View and change your account details
- Access your monthly bills
- Get help
- Amend Home Phone settings
- Access Home Phone call history and charges
- Refer your friends and family to Gigaclear



# Notes

**My WiFi key:**

To find out what  
you can do in  
your Customer  
Portal, see  
page 30.

**Your customer portal**  
**[myaccount.gigaclear.com](https://myaccount.gigaclear.com)**

## Customer Operations

Our team are here to help with your technical queries

### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday	8am - 8pm
Saturday	10am - 5pm
Sunday	10am - 3pm ( <i>Live chat only</i> )
Bank Holidays	10am - 5pm ( <i>Live chat only</i> )

-  [gigaclear.com/chat](https://gigaclear.com/chat)
-  [gigaclear.com/support](https://gigaclear.com/support)
-  01865 591 131