

# Fibre broadband explained

Fibre broadband makes use of next generation technology which allows ultra-fast broadband connections using a network of fibre-optic cables. Fibre-optic cables have the ability to transfer data at far higher speeds than copper cables, making the internet connection much faster and more reliable.

*Fibre is the fastest type of broadband you can get in Gibraltar and is best suited to high bandwidth applications such as streaming ultra-high definition TV, online gaming and video-conferencing.*



## **How does fibre broadband work?**

Fibre broadband uses fibre-optic cables which are as thin as a strand of hair to send pulses of light at the speed of light which are then interpreted as digital data at the point where that data is being sent. The cables generally run underground, through a series of ducts and trenches so that fibre broadband providers are able to deliver super-fast broadband to homes and businesses throughout Gibraltar.

## What is Fibre-to-the-Home?

Fibre broadband is delivered to homes and premises in one of two ways:

- 1. Fibre-to-the-Home (FTTH)/Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP)** a network which uses fibre from the provider's core network, all the way to your home or business, with no presence of copper whatsoever.
- 2. Fibre-to-the-Cabinet (FTTC)** sometimes referred to as a "part fibre" network, which is composed of fibre from the provider's core network, up to a distribution point, usually near to your home, either a cabinet in the basement or on the street, from which providers make use of traditional copper cables to deliver broadband services to your home. This reduces the length of the distance of copper cables used to deliver broadband, thus increasing the theoretical maximum speeds of those connections by a considerable margin.

## How fast is fibre broadband?

The fastest fibre broadband plans in Gibraltar can deliver speeds of up to 2 Gbps via a FTTH connection. This plan, as well as others are now offering symmetrical speeds, meaning that users can enjoy 2 Gbps download and 2 Gbps upload speeds, which is another impressive feature of fibre networks.

## Who offers fibre broadband in Gibraltar?

You can get both residential and business fibre broadband packages in Gibraltar from four providers:

**Gibtelecom**

sapphire  
NETWORKS

**GIB FIBRE**

U-mee  
MADE IN GIBRALTAR

## What's so good about fibre broadband?

If you're looking for the fastest broadband in Gibraltar, fibre will work best for you. You will find it especially useful if you:

- live in a large household, where many devices are connected to the internet simultaneously;
- stream a lot of high-quality content, like Netflix, Disney+, or Amazon Prime Video;
- routinely download large files, including High Definition and 4K movies;
- play online games and are looking to reduce your game lag;
- work from home and make use of conferencing applications.

Fibre speeds are very likely more than most people really need given the average household use today, but it's worth noting that fibre is essentially offering you the ability to future-proof your internet needs. Every year, the internet is becoming more central to our lives, technology is advancing, and media quality is increasing (from HD to 4K to 8K). Every year sees more 4K streaming content released, which will take higher bandwidths to run without interruption.

***Fibre broadband also has the added benefit of handling more data, therefore service providers are able to bundle their broadband services with TV and fixed telephony without deteriorating the broadband service.***

## Are there any alternatives to fibre broadband?

Both 4G and 5G mobile networks are currently available in Gibraltar and in certain cases depending on your individual needs and uses, these provide internet access via your mobile device and can often serve as a viable substitute to fibre broadband. However, these mobile services are subject to other external factors which fixed networks are not, such as poor coverage, spectrum interference and of course, mobile data allowances.