ETHERNET CABLE QUICK SELECTION GUIDE

How to Choose the Right Ethernet Cable for Your Home

You don't need the highest-rated cable. You need to select the cable that matches how you use your network at home.

Review the guide below to help you choose the right Ethernet cable for your setup.

Your Setup	Recommended Cable	Why This Works	Shop This Category
Basic Internet & Streaming TV, browsing, smart devices, ≤1 Gbps internet	Cat5e, solid copper, UTP, CMR-rated	Supports reliable gigabit speeds and is cost-effective for most households.	Shop Cat5e
Streaming + Gaming + Remote Work Multiple 4K streams, video calls, large downloads	Cat6, solid copper, UTP, CMR-rated	Handles heavier network traffic, reduces interference and leaves room for future speed upgrades.	Shop Cat6
Using PoE Devices Wi-Fi access points, security cameras, smart doorbells	Cat6, solid copper, UTP, CMR-rated	Solid copper supports Power over Ethernet (PoE) safely and consistently.	Shop Cat6
Planning for Multi-Gig or 10G Speeds Home lab, NAS, long cable runs	Cat6A, solid copper, UTP (or shielded), CMR or CMP-rated	Designed for sustained 10 Gbps performance over longer distances (to 100 m).	Shop Cat6A
High Electrical Interference Areas Near panels, heavy equipment, dense racks	Cat6 or Cat6A, solid copper, shielded, CMR or CMP-rated	Shielding helps protect signal integrity in electrically noisy environments.	Shop Cat6A

Installation Guidelines

• Use solid conductor cable for in-wall and permanent runs.
• Use stranded cable only for patch cords.
• Choose CMR (Communications Riser) for most in-wall residential installations.
• Choose CMP (Communications Plenum) if running cable through plenum or air-handling spaces.
• Most homes should use UTP (Unshielded Twisted Pair).
• Avoid CCA (Copper-Clad Aluminum) for permanent installations. Choose 100% solid copper.

The Best Choice for Most Homes

Cat6, solid copper, UTP, CMR-rated

Most homes should use Cat6 solid copper UTP, CMR-rated cable. It supports gigabit internet, streaming-heavy households and remote work, with room for future upgrades.

Questions? Contact us at **+1 (866) 312-5401** or email **customerservice@navepoint.com**.