

GUIDE TO SETTING UP A SECURE HOME NETWORK

To hide your network's SSID (Service Set Identifier), which is the name of your Wi-Fi network, follow these general steps:

1. Log into Your Router:

- Open a web browser and enter the router's IP address in the address bar. This is usually something like 192.168.1.1 or 192.168.0.1.
- Enter your router's admin username and password. If you haven't changed them, you can usually find the default credentials on a label on your router.

2. Navigate to the Wireless Settings:

- Look for a section called **Wireless**, **Wi-Fi**, or something similar.
- Depending on your router, it could be under **Wireless Settings**, **Network Settings**, or **Advanced Settings**.

3. Disable SSID Broadcast:

- Find the option labeled **SSID Broadcast**, **Enable SSID Broadcast**, or **Visibility Status**.
- Uncheck or toggle the option to **disable** broadcasting the SSID. This will hide your Wi-Fi network from showing up in the list of available networks.

4. Save the Settings:

- Once you've disabled SSID broadcast, click **Save** or **Apply** to save the changes.
- Your router may reboot to apply the changes.

5. Reconnect to the Network (If Needed):

- Devices that were previously connected to the network may need to be manually reconnected by entering the SSID and password, as the network won't appear in the list of available networks.

Keep in mind, while hiding the SSID makes your network less visible to casual users, it doesn't fully secure it. To ensure your network is secure, use strong WPA2 or WPA3 encryption and a strong password.

To set up WPA2 or WPA3 encryption on your router, follow these steps:

1. Log into Your Router:

- Open a web browser and enter your router's IP address in the address bar. Common addresses are:
 - 192.168.1.1
 - 192.168.0.1
- Enter your router's **username** and **password** to access the admin interface. If you haven't changed these, check your router for default login information, often found on a sticker.

2. Navigate to Wireless Settings:

- Look for a section called **Wireless**, **Wi-Fi**, or **Wireless Security**. This could be under **Advanced Settings** on some routers.

3. Set Encryption Mode:

- In the **Wireless Security** or **Wi-Fi Security** section, find the **Security Mode** dropdown or similar option.
- Select either **WPA2-PSK** (WPA2-Personal) or **WPA3-PSK** (WPA3-Personal), depending on your router's capabilities.
 - **WPA2**: This is widely supported by most devices and offers strong encryption.
 - **WPA3**: This is the latest, more secure encryption standard, but only works with newer devices.

4. Enter/Update Wi-Fi Password:

- In the **Password**, **Pre-Shared Key**, or **Passphrase** field, enter a strong password. Ensure it is at least 12-16 characters long, mixing uppercase letters, lowercase letters, numbers, and special symbols.

5. Choose Encryption Type:

- For WPA2, select **AES** as the encryption method (it provides stronger security than TKIP).
- For WPA3, the encryption is automatically secure, and no additional settings are required.

6. Save Changes:

- After setting the security mode and entering a strong password, click **Save** or **Apply** to update your router's settings.
- The router might restart, and you may need to reconnect your devices to the network using the updated settings.

7. Reconnect Devices:

- Once the settings are saved, reconnect your devices to the Wi-Fi using the new password if you changed it.

Your network is now secured with WPA2 or WPA3 encryption. If your router supports both WPA2 and WPA3, it may offer a **WPA2/WPA3 mixed mode**, which allows compatibility with both older and newer devices.