

4 Tips for a Spring Technology Check Up

By Michelle Gilbert, Vice President of Public Relations for Comcast in Michigan

Spring is the time of year for fresh starts. We change the batteries in our smoke alarms. We go through closets and give away old clothes, toys and other unused items. We clean up the yard, garden beds and even the garage. It's also a good time to ensure the technology in our home is running efficiently.

Here are four easy tips to help ensure you're getting the most value from your technology services.

Uncover New Features: Most of us aren't aware of all the value-add features available from our video, Internet and voice service provider, especially if we've been with the same company for a while. We recommend logging into your account information at least a couple times a year to learn what's new, such as value-rich apps that let you stream TV on your mobile devices and even let you easily trouble shoot common issues from the comfort of your own home.

Don't Double Pay: Your Internet service provider might already offer you a suite of online security products at no additional charge that protect against viruses and other online threats. If you're paying separately for an anti-virus computer program, check with your current Internet provider to see what's included before renewing any subscriptions.

Expand Your Wi-Fi Signal: [There are ways to ensure your home Wi-Fi is set up](#) to give you the most robust signal strength and speed. Place your router within a clear line of sight to where you use wireless most often in your home. A central location off the ground and out in the open is ideal. Don't place your router on the floor, in a remote corner of the house, or near a window or other electronics, as it could impact signal strength. If in doubt, [conduct a speed test](#) to ensure you're getting the speeds for which you're paying.

Maximize Internet Performance – The number of connected devices in your home and how you're using them impact your Internet performance. Many people, however, don't realize how many gadgets in their home rely on Internet. Here are the most common connected devices so you can start counting: smart TVs, smartphones, tablets, computers (laptop and desktop) iPods, gaming consoles, refrigerators and other household appliances, printers and Blu-Ray players. If your Internet doesn't seem to be working at its maximum potential, call your provider to assess your plan and see if you need more bandwidth to support all of your connected gadgets.