

PROTECTIVE DNS

Layer 4: the free filter for your whole home

DNS is the internet's phone book. Point your home network at a safe DNS and it quietly blocks porn, malware, and scam sites for every device on your WiFi, for free. It is the easiest layer to add, and the easiest to forget.

USE THIS ONE: CIRA CANADIAN SHIELD (FAMILY)

IPV4 PRIMARY

149.112.121.30

IPV4 SECONDARY

149.112.122.30

IPV6 PRIMARY

2620:10A:80BB::30

IPV6 SECONDARY

2620:10A:80BC::30

Canadian, run by CIRA (the .ca registry), free. Enter the IPv4 pair; add the IPv6 pair too if your router uses IPv6 (or turn IPv6 off). The Family tier blocks adult content, malware, and phishing. Other options are on the last page.

WHAT IT BLOCKS

Pornography, malware, and phishing or scam sites, on every device connected to your home WiFi at once.

WHAT IT DOES NOT BLOCK

Social media, YouTube, gaming, or self-harm content. And nothing on cellular data. It is a backstop, not the whole castle.

START HERE: FIND YOUR ROUTER

DNS is entered in your router's settings page, which looks different on every box. Answer these first:

1. **Which ISP?** Telus and Rogers are covered here. Others are similar.
2. **Is the box black or white?** It tells you the model (see the next pages).
3. **Open the admin page** in a browser: Telus **192.168.1.254**, Rogers **10.0.0.1**. The login is usually on a sticker on the router.

HAVE A TP-LINK DECO?

Easiest path: set the DNS right in the Deco app instead of your ISP router, and you also get the Layer 3 controls. See the HomeShield guide.



WHICH TELUS BOX DO YOU HAVE?

ROUTER MODEL	LOOK FOR	ADMIN PAGE	CAN YOU CHANGE DNS?
Actiontec T3200M	Black box	192.168.1.254	Yes, full support
NH20A (Arcadyan)	White, PureFibre	192.168.1.254	Yes, via DHCP
WiFi Hub	White tower	192.168.1.254	Partial, often bypassed
NH20T (Technicolor)	White, PureFibre	192.168.1.254	No, greyed out
FXA5000	White	192.168.1.254	Primary DNS only

ACTIONTEC T3200M (BLACK BOX) - FULL SUPPORT

1. Open a browser and go to **192.168.1.254**. Log in (username admin, password on the sticker).
2. Click **Advanced Setup**, then **I am an Advanced User**.
3. Click **LAN IP Settings**, find **Set the DNS values**.
4. Change DNS Server 1 and 2 from "DNS relay performed by Gateway" to **Statically Assigned**.
5. Enter the two addresses from page 1, click **Apply**.
6. Recommended: in IPv6 LAN Settings, disable ULA Support.

NH20A (WHITE, ARCADYAN) - WORKS VIA DHCP

1. Open the front panel to find the login, go to **192.168.1.254** and log in.
2. Open the DHCP settings, enter your DNS addresses, and save.

WIFI HUB (WHITE TOWER) - PROBLEMATIC

This box has a built-in resolver that often ignores custom DNS and pushes itself as the DNS. Try: Network > WAN > Edit, set "Connect to DNS automatically" to No, enter the addresses, Save; disable IPv6. If it does not stick, use the device-level method (page 3) or Bridge Mode with your own router.

NH20T (TECHNICOLOR) - NOT CHANGEABLE & FXA5000 - PRIMARY ONLY

NH20T DNS fields are greyed out, there is no fix at the router. FXA5000 allows a primary DNS only (Local Network > Show Advanced > DHCP > DNS Server). For NH20T, use the device-level method on page 3, or Bridge Mode with your own router.

ROGERS GATEWAYS

MODEL	LOOK FOR	ADMIN PAGE	CAN YOU CHANGE DNS?
XB6 (Gen 1)	Black	10.0.0.1	No, locked
XB7 (Gen 2)	White	10.0.0.1	No, locked
XB8 (Gen 3)	White	10.0.0.1	No, locked

ROGERS LOCKS DNS ON EVERY GATEWAY

Rogers has confirmed custom DNS is not available on any Xfinity gateway, through the admin page or the app, with no plans to enable it. The only way is Bridge Mode plus your own router.

BRIDGE MODE + YOUR OWN ROUTER

1. Go to **10.0.0.1** and log in (admin / password, or the sticker).
2. Go to **Gateway > At a Glance**, find **Bridge Mode**, and enable it.
3. Connect your own router (a TP-Link Deco is ideal) to an ethernet port.
4. Set the DNS on your own router, or in the Deco app.

Ignite TV caution: Bridge mode can affect Ignite TV boxes; IPv6 must stay on for them.

IF YOUR ROUTER WILL NOT ALLOW IT: DO IT PER DEVICE

Common with the Telus WiFi Hub, NH20T, and all Rogers gateways. Set DNS on each device with the free NextDNS app.

IPHONE / IPAD

1. Install **NextDNS** from the App Store, create a free account.
2. Follow setup (it adds a profile), enable it.
3. In Screen Time, restrict VPN changes so it cannot be turned off.

ANDROID / COMPUTER

1. Install **NextDNS** (app, or nextdns.io on a computer).
2. Create an account and enable always-on.
3. Set the filter to block adult content.

RECOMMENDATION

Telus: the T3200M is best, the NH20A works. The WiFi Hub and NH20T are problematic, use device-level or your own router. Rogers: always Bridge Mode plus your own router, a TP-Link Deco gives you DNS and the Layer 3 controls in one.

SAFE DNS OPTIONS

Any of these go in the same DNS fields. CIRA is Canadian-run; CleanBrowsing and OpenDNS filter more aggressively.

PROVIDER	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	BEST FOR
CIRA Canadian Shield (Family)	149.112.121.30	149.112.122.30	Canadian, recommended
CleanBrowsing (Family)	185.228.168.168	185.228.169.168	Stronger content filter
OpenDNS FamilyShield	208.67.222.123	208.67.220.123	No account needed
Cloudflare for Families	1.1.1.3	1.0.0.3	Fastest, blocks adult + malware
Quad9	9.9.9.9	149.112.112.112	Security only, no content filter

MAKE THE CHANGE TAKE EFFECT

The easy way: **restart your router, then restart your phones and computers**, that clears the old settings. To clear it directly instead: on a **Mac**, open the Terminal app, type `sudo dscacheutil -flushcache` and press Enter (it may ask for your password). On a **Windows PC**, open Command Prompt, type `ipconfig /flushdns` and press Enter.

CHECK IT WORKED

On any device on your home WiFi, visit [HomeNetworkCheckup.com](https://www.homenetworkcheckup.com). Your score should jump from around 30% to 70 or 80%. That confirms the filter is live. It does not measure social media or gaming, those need the router and device layers.

THE HONEST LIMITS

DNS only works on your home WiFi. The moment a phone switches to cellular data, it stops. And it does not touch social media, YouTube, or gaming. Treat it as a free safety net underneath the device controls (Apple Screen Time or Google Family Link) and the router (TP-Link Deco), not a replacement for them.

KEEP GOING

This is one of five layers. With the device, router, and DNS layers on, put the Safe Family Internet decal in your window so other families know they are not doing this alone.

