

Building a Fiber Network

Google Fiber's super fast Internet and TV service is coming to San Antonio. Fiber Internet will make it easier for you to do the things you love online. Super fast Internet can also help local small businesses grow and innovate; in fact the next generation of online apps could be created right here in San Antonio!

But before any of this can happen, we have to build a fiber network in your area. Over the past few months, our team of engineers has been hard at work designing this network for San Antonio, creating a detailed map of where we can put our thousands of miles of fiber. We've made great progress on designing our network, and we're ready to start ramping up construction in San Antonio.

Why build a new network?

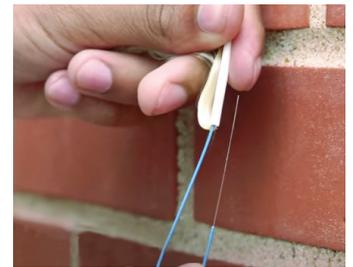
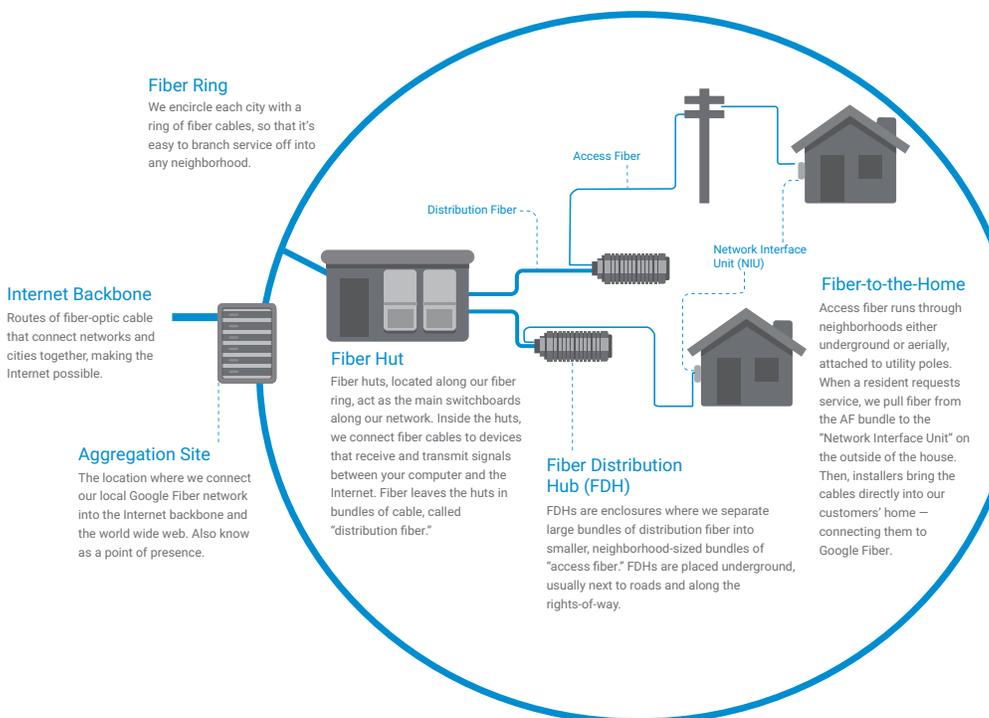
Many homes in the U.S. connect to the Internet via a coaxial cable. Coax, which is made of copper, is fine for carrying small amounts of data at a time like one TV channel or phone conversation. But since coax was invented close to a hundred years ago, it just wasn't built for the kinds of things we use the web for today.

Fiber-optic cables, on the other hand, are much better suited to 21st century communications demands. We bring these fiber cables directly into our customer's homes to give them fiber Internet.

Installing fiber is a long-term investment in San Antonio—we're constructing thousands of miles of infrastructure that will enable the city to be a leader in innovation and tech advances for years to come. Early research also shows that high-speed Internet services can drive billions of dollars in economic growth. According to Fiber to the Home Council, cities with gigabit connections report a 1.1 percent higher per-capita GDP.

What we build

Throughout San Antonio, we'll be installing enough fiber to stretch from here to Canada and back. We'll work with our contractor to install this fiber either underground by digging trenches and burying conduit or aerially by hanging it along utility poles. This fiber will connect different components of our network across the city:



Coax is older than space exploration, jet engines and the ballpoint pen—yet it's still the technology many Americans use to get Internet service to their homes today. We use glass fiber cables in our network, instead. Fibers are about the width of a human hair, and they use lasers to transmit information at close to the speed of light.

To build Google Fiber in San Antonio, we'll be...

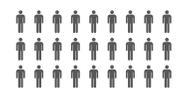
Constructing more than
4,000
miles of fiber
(enough to stretch from here to Canada and back)



Attaching fiber on up to
200,000
utility poles



...and all of this will take
hundreds
of construction workers



Google fiber



What does construction look like?

1. This bright orange roll of conduit covers our fiber to protect it from the elements as we lay it underground.
2. As we build our network, safety is always our top priority. Here, we're locating existing utilities with a vacuum and potholing equipment.
3. We use a lot of different types of equipment to lay fiber. Here, we're preparing the horizontal directional drill to bury conduit.

Frequently Asked Questions

How will we know when construction is starting in our area?

We'll give you a heads-up before we do construction on your street. Look out for a door hanger, which will give you information about when and where we'll be working near you. We'll also provide a hotline you can call in case you have questions or concerns about the work we'll be doing.

It looks like you're doing construction in the Westover Hills area. Does that mean they'll be the first to get Fiber?

Not necessarily. We'll be doing construction all across the metro area in the coming months, but we don't yet have a schedule for when and where we'll be able to offer service first.

When will you start signups for Google Fiber?

It's still too early to say. We have a lot of construction work to do first! We'll make an announcement as soon as we have an update about timing. The best way to stay in-the-loop is to signup for more information on our website, google.com/fiber/sanantonio

Are you hiring?

We have a handful of Google jobs, which you can find on our website: google.com/jobs. We also rely on many contractors to bring Google Fiber to a city, and some of those companies may be hiring. You can find some of those partners listed on our website, at fiber.google.com/careers

What happens if there are construction issues in my area?

We're going to work hard to keep disruption to a minimum. Our crews will work quickly, and when they're done, they'll return the construction area to the condition they found it in, whether that means patching any holes we had to dig, repaving streets or even planting new grass seeds when needed. If any issues come up, we'll also have a hotline ([877-454-6959](tel:877-454-6959)) available so you can get in touch with us 24/7.

How long will you be constructing in my neighborhood/city?

The amount of time it takes to bring fiber to a particular area varies greatly based on the size of the area, whether we're doing aerial or underground work, the local soil type, and even the weather conditions. We don't have a specific timeframe to share just yet, but we'll try to build as quickly and efficiently as we can, and will keep residents updated along the way.