

In Touch

HOLIDAY 2022

Have a Very, Very Merry Christmas

All of us at Albany Mutual Telephone hope your Christmas wishes come true. May you enjoy plenty of festivities with family and friends, delight in the season's sights and sounds, and treasure every gift with a grateful heart.



This time of year is also a beautiful opportunity to celebrate what makes our community one of the very best around—including having neighbors like you!

Contact

Albany Mutual Telephone
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Albany, MN 56307
Phone: 320.845.2101

Office Hours

M-F - 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Office Closures

- Friday, December 23rd and Monday, December 26th for Christmas Holiday
- Monday, January 2nd for New Year's Holiday

Email

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Visit Us Online

www.albanytel.com



Technology. All the Way Home.

THEY'RE BEGGING FOR FASTER INTERNET THIS CHRISTMAS



GET YOUR PAWS ON A HIGHER SPEED NOW

It can be doggone frustrating to deal with the hassles of too-slow internet, like videos that buffer and Zoom calls that freeze up—especially during the busy Christmas season. So we have a suggestion. Switch to one of our internet plans with much higher speeds, and everyone in your household (two-legged or four-legged) will be much happier. **Choose from speeds up to 1 Gig!**

DON'T FUR-GET TO CALL 320.845.2101 AND ORDER

Service availability and internet speed will depend on location. Certain restrictions apply. Contact us for details.

Three Creative Christmas Traditions for Families

Looking for ways to add a little extra excitement to the season every year? Check out these fun ideas!

1. Magic Santa Key

If your home doesn't have a fireplace, how will Santa get inside? Start the tradition of the Magic Santa Key. Hang it on the tree and tell your kids it only works with Santa's magic and for one night only. On Christmas Eve, leave the key outside the front door.

2. Santa's Extra Bag

During December, ask your kids to go through their toys and choose ones they no longer use and want Santa to deliver as extra gifts to other kids. Have them put these toys in a big bag and leave it by the fireplace or front door for Santa to take with him on Christmas Eve.

3. Gift-Wrapped Doorway

Don't stop at just wrapping the gifts. Wrap the doorway into your living room as well. Your kids will have a great time ripping through the paper on Christmas morning.



How Often Do Routers Need Replacement?



You probably don't think about your router unless your Wi-Fi isn't working well. But nothing lasts forever, including a router.

If you own your router — rather than use one provided by Albany Mutual Telephone — you'll need to pay attention to several factors to determine if replacement might be needed:

- **Your router's age** – The average lifespan for a router is about three years. Upgrading every three years allows you to take advantage of improvements to wireless speeds, efficiency, range, and network security. But this isn't a hard-and-fast rule. You may want to upgrade more frequently if you like being on the cutting edge of technology or you put your router through heavy use.
- **Connection issues with Wi-Fi network** – You may experience a loss of your internet connection or difficulty connecting to the internet. Poor connectivity could be a sign that your router is nearing the end of its useful life (provided you've ruled out other causes such as network outages or modem issues).
- **Worsening Wi-Fi range and speeds** – Like poor connectivity, worsening Wi-Fi range and speeds can be signs that your router is starting to fail.
- **Weak connections in some rooms** – Is your Wi-Fi connection strong in some places but weak or nonexistent in others? Consider upgrading to a mesh router, which uses multiple devices to extend the range of your network and spread a steadier signal throughout your entire home.
- **Running hot** – It's normal for routers to get a little warm when working, but if yours is too hot to touch comfortably, it's overheated from being overworked. Older routers weren't built to sustain all the internet-connected devices many households use today.
- **Lacks needed features** – It may be time to replace an older router if it lacks important features found in today's models, such as Wi-Fi 6 and WPA3, the latest generations of Wi-Fi and Wi-Fi security, respectively.

Don't want to think about Wi-Fi issues? Router maintenance and replacement is included in Albany Mutual Telephone's Managed Wi-Fi service. For details, call 320.845.2101.