

Are you thinking about making the move to High Speed Internet Access at your rural home?

Consider your options carefully, as there are many choices and choosing the wrong one for your needs can be costly. Here's what available in the market today (February 1, 2010) for the speed and amount a typical home user might want.

Service Provider	Type	Monthly Fee	Speed	Data Included	Overage per MB	Typical monthly cost at 20GB of data usage	Setup & Hardware cost
Telus	USB Mobile 3G network shared with Bell	\$30	Up to 21Mbps max Typical: 4-6 Mbps download 0.6 -1.5Mbps upload	500MB (4 hours of streaming video)	\$50 per GB (10GB max)	\$30 plus \$50 x 10GB extra \$530	\$35 setup fee \$0 on 2 yr contract
Bell	USB Mobile 3G network shared with Telus	\$30	Up to 21Mbps max Typical: Unstated, but same as Telus	500MB (4 hours of streaming video)	\$50 per GB	\$30 plus \$50 x 15GB extra \$780	\$35 setup fee \$0 on 3 yr contract
Rogers	USB Mobile "Rocket" 3G network	\$30	Up to 21Mbps max Typical: Unstated, but typically the same as Telus & Bell	500MB (4 hours of streaming video)	\$30 per GB	\$30 plus \$30 x 15GB extra \$480	\$35 setup fee \$0 on 2 yr contract
Neighbourhood Wireless	Fixed Wireless Broadband	\$60	Up to 5Mbps max Typical: 1.5Mbps download 0.5 Mbps upload	30,000MB (240 hours of streaming video)	\$1.50 per GB	\$60 plus No extra \$60	\$99 installation & setup Hardware rental included in monthly fee on 2 yr contract

Mobile internet USB solutions from the cellular carriers are designed for laptop users who need occasional access to email and the web while away from home or the office. These people typically don't need a lot of data included for uploading or downloading. **USB technologies are priced accordingly and are generally not meant to replace home or office internet connections.**

Home users are best served by a fixed connection priced with much greater data included. In the urban markets that would be cable or DSL, but in rural areas it's a **fixed wireless device mounted on the roof** with a cable entering the building to connect your computer(s).

What you need to ask is, **"How do I intend to use this connection?"** If the answer is occasional mobile use with a laptop, go USB. If it's for home use where family members will be viewing content rich web sites (like youtube.com) or sending and receiving digital pictures, go fixed wireless.

Choosing the right one will make you and your wallet very happy!