

How to check if a device is 5 GHz-compatible

(capable of receiving the 5 GHz radio frequency)

2.4 GHz vs. 5 GHz (Radio Frequencies)

- 2.4 GHz = 802.11 b/g
- 5 GHz = 802.11 a/ac
- “n” uses multiple input/output technology to decrease time between transmissions and to achieve faster speeds.
- Seeing “n” does not mean a device (computer, laptop, smart phone) is 5 GHz-compatible.
- If a device shows only b/g/n, it does not support 5 GHz.
- If a device shows a/b/g/n/ac, it does support 5 GHz.

Tablets and Smart Phones

- Many smart phones, including iPhone models 4 and 4S, are not 5 GHz-compatible.
- Most Samsung phones are 5 GHz-compatible.
- Not all tablets are 5 GHz-compatible, although iPads are.

Laptop Configuration

- To check a laptop’s wireless adapter, take the following steps: Start > At the bottom there is a search bar. Type “Device Manager” in the search bar and select it from the list.
- In Device Manager, select Network adapters. Look for your wireless adapter. Double click on it. Open the Advanced tab and look for wireless mode. (**Miniport adapter** is not it.)
- Since each device has different manufacturers, there will be many different various settings.
- We are going to look for information that talks about 802.11.
- If there is no setting that has a/b/g/n, the device is not 5 GHz-compatible. A dual-band wireless adapter (which can be purchased in any office supply store or from Smart City on-site) should enable the device to capture the 5 GHz broadcast signal (devices with a USB port only).

