



housebeautiful

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(designonline)

Producer Mario López-Cordero

ask betsy

Betsy Franklin, home services expert and editor of decorating bible *The Franklin Report*, tips off *HB* readers first

Q. *I have one phone line in my summer cottage and two teenage daughters constantly on the Web, but I still need to use the phone. What do I do?*

A. IN MANY AREAS OF THE COUNTRY, SEASONAL HIGH-SPEED Internet connections are available through cable companies. If you subscribe to cable TV and your carrier offers Internet service, you can purchase or lease a cable modem from the cable company, which will create a cable Internet connection from the existing line. Subscriptions are monthly and cost about \$45, depending on the speed of your connection, location, and cable package. Some companies waive connection or cancellation fees, as they are competing for customers. A hub, which sells for about \$50, will enable more than one computer to use the same connection; keep in mind that the connection may be slower.

E-mail your home improvement or renovation questions to hbquestions@hearst.com or mail them to Ask Betsy, *House Beautiful*, 1700 Broadway, 29th floor, New York, NY 10019. Log on to www.franklinreport.com for home improvement resources at the click of a button.