



Upgrading Radios While Preserving Your Antenna Investment

Application Note

Providing a pathway to technology upgrades while protecting your investment

Installers of wireless networks and access equipment are continually faced with upgrading antennas, radios and other components in a network in order to provide end users with the latest technologies and services.

This updating process typically includes removing the existing antenna and radio, installing a new antenna and radio and then aligning the antenna.

Depending on the installation, the alignment process can be very time consuming and costly.



Antenna Alignment Process

Antenna Install and Alignment Drawbacks

- Weather
 - ◆ Environmental elements, such as wind, snow, ice, heat and so on greatly increase the risk of potential harm to personnel and can increase install time.
 - ◆ Hazardous conditions also raise the likelihood that heavy and expensive antennas and other equipment are damaged in the process.

- Installer Fatigue
 - ◆ Installers are susceptible to fatigue and frustration as more time and effort is required of them, which can lead to greater chances of sub-optimal installations and alignment.
 - ◆ If installations are poor, then connectivity for customers can be sub-par. This leads to more time being spent on fielding complaints and return to fix the alignment.

- Expensive equipment rental / utilization
 - ◆ Installing large antennas requires cranes/winches to hoist the antenna up, versus having a climber bring a new radio up with them.
 - ◆ Alignment tools are expensive, and most installation companies only have a handful of tools, not one for every climber.

- Need for larger Install crews
 - ◆ When installing larger size antennas, bigger crews are required. The added labor increases the cost and complexity of the installation.

The Solution

[Antenna Retrofit Kits](#) provide a very cost-effective solution to reducing the time and money spent when upgrading to new radios. Antenna retrofit kits allow you to continue using your previously deployed antennas while upgrading to the latest radios on the market.



Deploying antenna retrofit kits is relatively straightforward and quick. Simply remove the existing feedhorn and install the kit from the back of a pre-existing, mounted antenna without the need to take it down. This saves installers vast amounts of time, money and energy by negating the need for new antenna installations and alignment. Retrofit kits provide continued use of your existing [high-performance antennas](#) with different radios/and or frequencies.

But not all antenna retrofit kits are created equal...

An ideal retrofit kit provides broad radio support, features a rugged design for long-lasting reliable installations and includes mounting and connectivity options to support multiple radios.

They'd also ship complete with new feed horns, connector interface and mounting hardware needed for rapid and easy installations.

If you're interested in saving money and time and achieving rapid installs thanks to no longer needing to spend hours installing and aligning new antennas, then retrofit kits are the perfect solution for you.

RadioWaves' line of [versatile antenna retrofit kits](#) are in-stock and available for same-day shipping.