

Cutting the Cable Cord: Getting Started

- Keep a log of your viewing habits for at least a week
source/network, title, date or #times watched, hours (optional)
- Check for adequate internet bandwidth (10-50+ Mbps download)
<https://www.speedtest.net> -or- Google search “internet speed test”
- Ask neighbors about OTA on Nextdoor.com or a local listserv
- Experiment with Over-the-Air before cutting the cord
- Explore streaming content and create a starter watchlist
<https://www.reelgood.com/> -or- <https://www.justwatch.com/us>
- Buy (or borrow) a streaming device and use free trials
Note: can view episodes on a computer without a streaming device
- Watch for holiday specials and device + service bundles
- Use OTA and/or sign up for streaming.... and cancel your cable!

Over-the-Air (OTA) Reception

- Major networks broadcast over-the-air digital signals
ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, PBS
- Most viewers in our area can receive these with an indoor antenna
- Check these websites for signal reception at your location
 - <https://www.antennaweb.org> (shows location of stations on a map)
 - <https://www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps>
- Note distances to stations to choose optimal antenna
- Antennas (try indoor first), amplified (or not), \$40-\$70 (e.g. Mohu, 1byone)
- Connect antenna and use TV setup menu to scan for channels
- Antenna placement: trial and error at first
 - different positions for “difficult” channels, may change with weather conditions

Streaming Services

Service	Price (month)	Free Trial
Netflix	\$8 SDx1, \$11 HDx2	30 day
Amazon Prime Video	\$13 or \$119/yr	?
Hulu	\$8, \$12	30 day
Sling TV	\$25, \$40	7 day
Hulu with Live TV	\$40	7 day
YouTube TV	\$40	7 day
CBS All Access	\$6, \$10	7 day
ESPN+	\$5 or \$50/yr	7 day
Acorn TV	\$5	7 day
PBS Passport	\$5 or \$60/yr	
DirectTV Now	\$40 to \$70	7 day
Philo	\$16, \$20	7 day

Streaming Devices

Device	Price	4K	Voice	Comments
Apple TV	\$149	No	Yes	32GB
Apple TV 4K	\$179	Yes	Yes	32GB or \$199 for 64GB
Roku Express	\$30	No	No	model 3900R
Roku Stick	\$50	No	Yes	model 3800R
Roku Stick+	\$60	Yes	Yes	model 3810R, dual-band wifi
Roku Ultra	\$100	Yes	Yes	micro SD and USB, advanced remote
Fire TV Stick	\$40	No	Yes	
Fire TV Stick 4K	\$50	Yes	Yes	
Fire TV Cube	\$120	Yes	Yes	TV + Alexa
Chromecast	\$35	No	No	Controlled via mobile device (iOS or Android)
Chromecast Ultra	\$70	Yes	No	Controlled via mobile device (iOS or Android)
TiVo Roamio OTA	\$400	No	Yes	1TB DVR + streaming player, skip/quick modes \$15/mo or \$149/yr service plan
Smart TVs	\$170+	Maybe	Usually	Custom streaming or integrated Roku player