

# Cut the Cord

Break free from cable forever.



Get free HDTV over the air



Stream shows and movies



Local news and events



Get pro and college sports

**ting** crazy fast  
fiber Internet

# The best cord cutting experience demands the best Internet around.

Crazy fast fiber Internet from Ting means video streams that start instantly and that never stop to buffer... no matter what time it is or who else is online.

## Gigabit fiber Internet

Upload speeds 1,000 mbps

Download speeds 1,000 mbps

For Home

**\$89**/month

For Business

**\$139**/month



Watch videos with zero buffering.



Ideal experience and performance for gamers.



Skype or video conference without freezing or delay.



Knowledgeable, accessible and attentive customer support.



Spend less time waiting for sites, videos and large files to load.



Unlimited monthly data usage.

Find Ting in your town: [ting.com/internet](http://ting.com/internet)

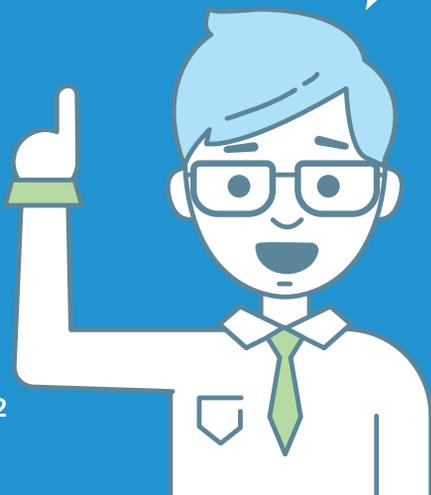
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# Cutting the cord.

Cutting the cord is nowhere near as scary as the cable company would like you to think. I'm here to help you along the way.

You don't have to sacrifice the TV and movies you love. Look for me to get tips, tricks and things to watch for as you make your way through this guide.



02

## Adios, cable

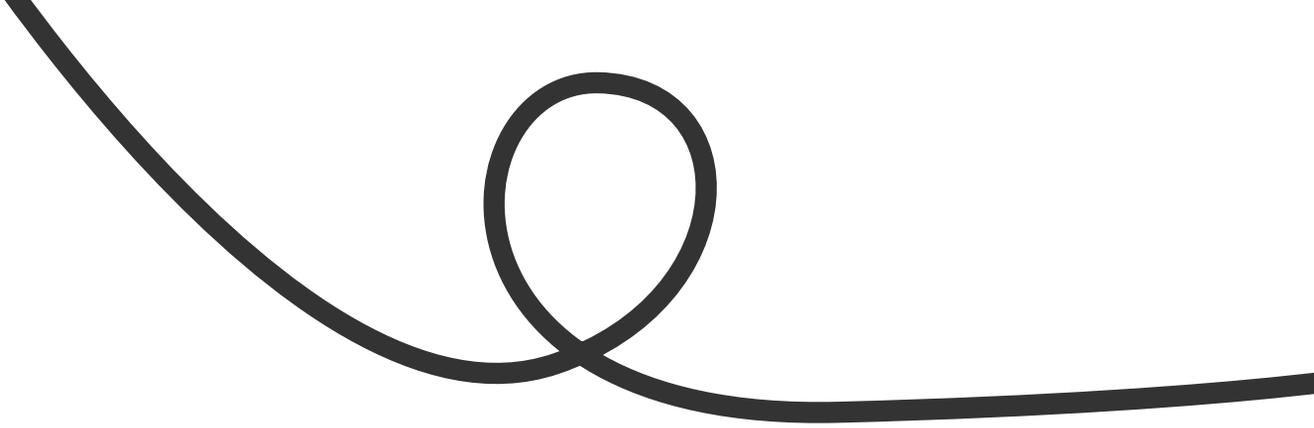
Cutting the cord means saying goodbye to the monthly cable bill. It doesn't mean saying goodbye to the channels, live events and shows that you love, though. It's about smarter TV, not necessarily less TV.

Ultimately, cutting the cord is about taking the power back. Watching what you want, when you want, where and how you want.

In the guide that follows, we'll share a bunch of tips, tricks and things you may not have thought about. We'll talk about getting live TV in gorgeous HD over the air using an antenna (yes, an antenna).

We'll touch on the options available to you for streaming movies, TV shows, sports and live events. We'll talk about some set top box options that let you watch it all in your living room instead of hunched over the laptop.

We'll talk about a bunch of other stuff too.



## Why get the gig?

### A great city deserves great Internet and the best cord cutting experience demands it.

Gigabit Internet, of the crazy fast fiber sort offered by Ting, is about much more than entertainment; however, the socio-economic benefits, the necessity of better infrastructure if North America is to keep pace, the engine to drive innovation... those are all (important) subjects for another discussion.

The impact of crazy fast fiber Internet is more immediate than that.

It means video streams that start instantly and don't ever stop to buffer. The best quality video you've ever seen, coming to your TV uninterrupted in glorious high definition or even the new gold standard for video, 4K.

It means everyone in the house watching what they want, where they want, when and how they want. It means video chats with grandma or video conference calls with the boss without asking the kids to please hold off on watching Netflix until after said call is over.

You can cut the cord with a lesser, not so fast copper connection, of the sort the cable company offers; however the experience gets exponentially better when your Internet connection is exponentially better.

A great city deserves great Internet and the best cord cutting experience demands it.

If you've already chosen Ting crazy fast fiber Internet, might we just say hey, good call. Thank you. The future looks bright indeed.

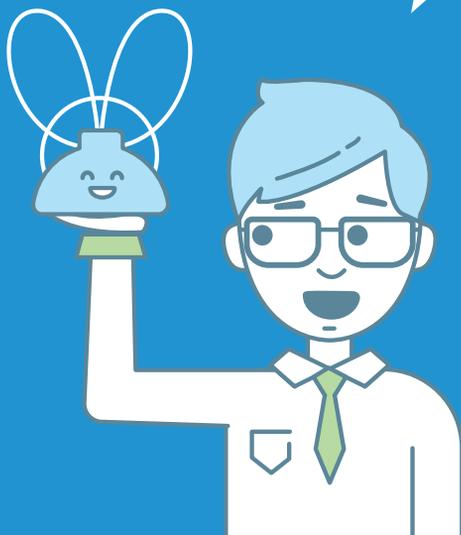
# Over the air television...

## Fish those old bunny ears out of storage.

Dust off that old antenna.

The switchover to digital TV didn't render it useless. There's a ton of beautiful, full HD television, whizzing through the air (tin foil hats on, please) and just waiting to be pulled in and displayed on your HDTV.

Over the next couple of pages we'll talk about your options for over the air (OTA) antennas and how to figure out where to point yours to pull in the most channels. First, here's what you can expect from OTA TV.



### Major networks

ABC, NBC, FOX, CBS and many more channels are all available over the air, for free. Pulling them in via antenna is all completely above board and legal. This isn't grey market stuff.

### That primetime show

If there's a particular TV show everyone is talking about around the water cooler, you can rest assured your odds of getting it over the air are good. More on page 10.

### Sports

NFL, NBA, NHL and MLB games are often broadcast in local markets via affiliates. You can grab many local games over the air. College games too. More sports options for cord cutters on page 10.

### News + Weather

Cutting off cable doesn't mean cutting yourself off from the outside world. With an antenna, you'll get your local and national news and weather over the air, for free.

# Choosing the right antenna

Put those bunny ears back in storage. Sorry if we made you rummage for them in the previous article. It was just a rhetorical device.

## Tech Tip:

While antenna price can certainly correlate with performance, it's not a direct 1:1 relationship. For a rough idea, consider about \$100 as the sweet spot when buying an antenna.

What you really need is a great antenna. Even at the top-end of the market, you're not looking at a huge expense.

To get the most channels possible over the air, you'll want an antenna that offers the best range, measured in miles or kilometers. If in doubt, spend a little time with an expert in your local audio visual store... or just scour the verified user reviews on Amazon.

## Get out

If it's at all possible, you want to mount your antenna outdoors. Failing that, put it in the attic. Mounting hardware, most specifically the mast that attaches your antenna to your home, may not be included in the box, but you'll need that too.

## Or stay in

If outdoor mounting isn't possible, and indoor antenna will still bring you some OTA TV joy. Range claims are a little more suspect when you're indoors and positioning is key. We'll get to that.

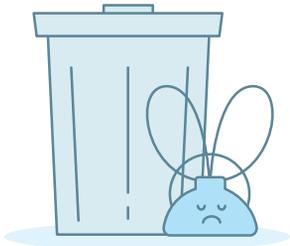
## Power on

A signal booster or amplifier can help to bring in channels that are on the outer edges of your antenna's range. Wait to see what you get with just your unpowered antenna, though, before you buy.

## Turn, turn

If there's no single, primary source for HDTV in your area, you might opt for an antenna that rotates through 360° using a powered base and a remote to pick up different stations.

**Visit [TVfool.com](http://TVfool.com) for advice on how and where to point your antenna.**



# Point here, get free TV

## Figure out where to mount your antenna before you mount the ladder.

### Tech Tip:

Find out what's on with a tablet or smartphone app. Options abound; just search "TV listings" in your app store of choice. TV Guide literally wrote the book on TV listings, and their free app is a great choice for Android or iOS.

You've got the antenna. Now it's time to figure out where best to put it and point it.

A couple of hours of DIY (or a couple of beers for the neighborhood handyman, perhaps?) and you'll be pulling in free channels by the dozen from thin air. It's like magic. Completely explicable magic.

### On point

To figure out where to point your antenna, **TVFool.com** is the place to be. Run your address and you'll get detailed information that will point you, and your antenna, in the right direction. An inexpensive compass (or an app on your smartphone) will also come in handy here.

### Put it up

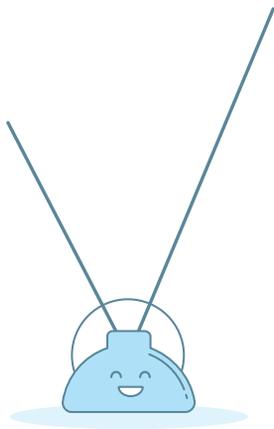
Mounting outdoors, get as high up as you can and away from obstructions and power lines... for safety reasons, of course, but also because electronics, metal and cables can interfere with the signal.

### Or keep it in

If you have no choice but an indoor antenna, the same logic applies: As high up as you can get it, away from any electronics or other potential sources of interference.

### Double up

Depending on your geography, you might find your closest OTA source doesn't broadcast all the channels you want. Don't think you have to buy right out of the gate but later, a second antenna, pointed somewhere else and daisy-chained with your main antenna, might prove a worthwhile investment.



# Recording free over the air TV

## Lose cable but keep the benefits of the personal video recorder (PVR).

Giving all the cable company's equipment back after you cut the cord can be freeing. It's cathartic in the same way throwing out everything an ex left at your house is... but man, it'd be nice to keep that PVR...

Fret not, bold cord cutter: Just because you're losing the cable company doesn't mean you have to lose the ability to record, pause, rewind and otherwise bend live TV to your will.

### **Tablo**

*\$220 - \$300 + \$5/mo.*

Tablo lets you schedule recordings for shows and other live TV events. You can view your recordings or watch live TV on any device that runs that Tablo app... and that's most devices; Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Roku, Android, iOS and more are all included.

All your recordings are saved to an external hard drive (factor that purchase in) and are easily accessed in the Tablo app. Also, factor in the extra \$5/mo. for full version of the super handy electronic program guide (EPG).

### **TiVo Roamio**

*\$200 + \$15/mo.*

The name TiVo is synonymous with PVR in the same way Google is synonymous with search. The TiVo Roamio does all the live TV recording, commercial skipping, electronic guide navigating

we've come to love but removes the cable TV subscription from the mix. Speaking of subscriptions, though, you're looking at \$15/mo. to access TiVo's excellent on-screen guides. That's not an optional expense, either.

### **Channel Master DVR+**

*\$250 - \$400 + \$0/mo.*

While its on-screen program guides don't have the polish of the other contenders, the Channel Master does offer the distinct benefit of not coming with any monthly subscription charge.

If you already have a USB hard drive to spare you can opt for the \$249 option. Otherwise, you'll want the \$400 model that includes 1 TB of internal storage. With two tuners you can schedule recordings and watch one channel while recording another. It's a slim, sleek little system that is easy to fit into your home entertainment unit.

# Streaming TV

Streaming TV on demand is the better way. We're not just talking Netflix anymore.

## Netflix

*\$8.99/mo. 1 mo. free trial*

Here you'll find tens of thousands of hours of TV shows, movies, stand-up comedy, documentaries of all sorts and so on. Stuff you'd see on primetime TV plus Netflix-only shows, some of which have received critical acclaim. Netflix now has deep pockets, which means bargaining power when negotiating for new content.

## Dish

*\$20/mo.*

If you want your content live then make sure to check out the all new Sling TV. Not only do you get 20 channels for \$20 per month with no contract, you also get access to WatchESPN for live sports. Other channels and packages are available for an additional \$5/mo. each.



## Amazon Prime Instant

*\$99/yr. 1 mo. free trial*

Access an enormous back catalog and original content available for streaming. Amazon Prime Instant also has exclusive rights to older seasons of shows from HBO. In addition, buy or rent newly released movies and buy individual episodes of up to the minute TV shows starting at just \$1.99. (Plus free two-day shipping on physical products and other benefits.)

Cutting the cord means finding other sources for the shows (movies, live events, sports, music, etc.) you love.

While Netflix is the front-runner in the category, and a great place to start, it's certainly not the only game in town.

## Hulu

*\$7.99 - \$11.99/mo. (ad-free)  
1 mo. free trial*

With Hulu, you'll get shows online the day after they air. It has an impressive lineup of networks including Fox, NBC, ABC and even some CBS content. In addition, they offer a lineup of cable networks including MTV, Spike, Discovery and FX, among others.

## Niche stuff

*\$free - \$not free*

The beauty of cutting the cord is that you're choosing only the stuff that you actually care about. As Cat Fancy Magazine is to Time (that is, niche vs. mainstream, in case you don't do well with SAT questions) so is CrunchyRoll (Japanimation) to Netflix. Noggin (kids' TV) to Amazon Prime Instant. Pluto TV (belies categorization) to Hulu.

# Streaming on the big screen

A set top box gets all that great online content onto the TV in your living room.

**Tech Tip:**

While each set top box has its strong suits, you only really need one.

Set top boxes or STBs, let you do all this great Internet stuff right on your TV. The days of hunching over the laptop are over.

Here are a few of the front-runner STBs to consider.

## Apple TV

*\$149 (32 GB) – \$199 (64 GB)*

It's taken some time but Apple recently updated its Apple TV set top box. Among the many new features, support for third party apps and games plus integrated Siri voice search. Missing? 4K playback capability.

## Amazon Fire TV

*\$99.99 (standard) – \$139.99 (Gaming Edition)*

The new Amazon Fire TV is a powerful 4K Ultra HD set top box with exceptional integration into the Amazon ecosystem. If you only buy your content on Amazon (or if you're a Prime member) the Fire TV is the best device for you.

## Roku

*\$129.99 (Roku 4)*

The newest Roku is worth the space in your home entertainment center. The Roku 4, features a faster processor, 4K video, voice search and a great collection of third-party apps. We'll go as far as calling the Roku 4 the set top box to beat.

## The set top box you already own...

If you've got a current generation video game system, a smart TV, or even a smart Blu-ray player, you've already got a great means of streaming video up to the big screen.

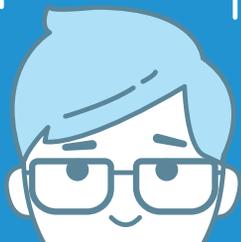
Even an inexpensive device like Google's Chromecast can stream content from your phone or laptop up to your HDTV.

# Live Sports

Whatever your game of choice, whatever team you follow, there's a streaming option that has you covered.

We get it. Cable delivers the goods when it comes to all things that involve a ball of some kind, a goal of some sort and a bunch of hyper-tense fans hanging on every agonizing second.

As a cord cutter, you don't have to give up the easy access to the game, whether pro or college. One more benefit of cutting the cord: Only pay for the sports you actually choose to watch.



## NFL

Many NFL games are available for free, over the air, using just an antenna (see pg. 4). Sling TV (see "streaming TV," pg. 8) offers access to ESPN and ESPN 2.

## MLB

MLB At Bat streaming service isn't cheap but it gives you more baseball stuff (including live games) than any one person could handle. Some games will also be available over the air or via Sling TV.

## NBA

League Pass running on your set top box brings every game that's not aired on national TV plus the option to view the game from the home or away team's perspective.

## PGA

PGA Tour is the official streaming source for golf. The service offers access to over 30 PGA Tour Live events on your set top box.

## NHL

If you're a hockey fan, NHL Center Ice has you covered. Get the stream from your team's perspective by tuning in to home or away feeds, whichever one is local and rooting for your favorite team.

## College sports

College Sports Live lets you follow your alma mater or whatever varsity team you like. The college big three of football, baseball, basketball are covered, along with others.

## Others

Rest assured, if there's a sport you can't live without, there's almost certainly a streaming option that covers it. Premier League and Major League Soccer, tennis, cricket, Major League Gaming, to name a few.

# News, events and prime time TV

A lot of the stuff we consider TV—Prime time shows that everyone seems to be watching and talking about the next day—is available over the air, using your antenna.

You won't miss out on the shows and events everyone talks about the next day.

## What's on?

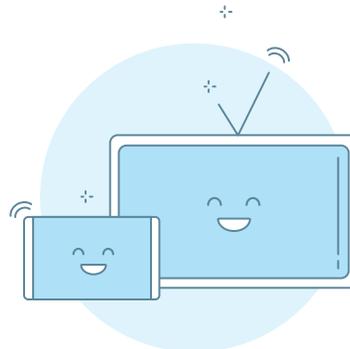
If you have cable, you have a good idea of what's on, when and on which channel you'll find it. TVFool.com tells you which channels you can expect to pull in over the air, with your antenna. Chances are, the channels you count on for local and international news, prime time TV and live events (like The Voice, squee!) are all present and accounted for.

## Specialty channels

You'll find some specialty channels have their own streaming services (HBO, Showtime, A&E and the like). Some of these are “pay-gated” and require you to have an active cable subscription, some don't. The simpler solution is to go looking for the shows you love on the various over the air and streaming options we've discussed as opposed to the networks that run said shows.

## Search for shows, not for networks

Chances are, you don't actually have a special place in your heart for a particular channel. What you love is the stuff that channel runs. The solution is streaming services. In your last weeks with cable TV, keep a tally of the shows your family watches. The number may be lower than you think: Research company Digitalsmiths puts the family average at fewer than 10 shows per month. A little Googling will turn you on to which streaming services offer up the shows that you actively watch.

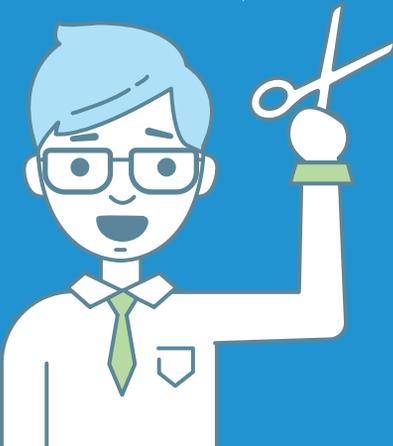


# Your move, cable

## The best TV? Cable doesn't even get it.

You cut the cord and go looking for all the stuff you used to like to watch on TV. You find most of it. All's right with the world.

What may surprise you is the sheer amount of stuff that's not on cable. We're not talking about direct to DVD movies or after school specials, either. We're talking about high quality, produced shows that never went looking for a network deal because they don't fit into cable TV's time-worn mould.



### Livestream

CNET, Accuweather, The Verge, SB Nation, The New York Times and many other video streams can be picked up on Livestream. Along with content from all around the world.

### Red Bull TV

Who needs ads when you can build a channel that is a big ol' branding exercise? Red Bull TV airs all manner of extreme sports stuff. Also on deck: high quality shows surrounding the lifestyles Red Bull markets to.

### TED TV

You've no doubt heard of TED Talks. These fun and academic events pull in great thinkers and doers across a broad spectrum of expertise to share findings and thoughts. Subjects range from the deep and philosophical to simple and fun. And they have a free streaming channel, too.

### Twitch TV

It's hard to explain in just a couple of sentences but chances are, if you have kids, they're watching Twitch TV. 100 million people per month do. Think live streaming of major video game events to start... and get more esoteric from there.

### YouTube

At the risk of overstating things, consider YouTube the Gutenberg press of our time. YouTube belies summary but, suffice it to say, it's not what you may think. If you have preconceived notions about the quality or subject matter of YouTube content, put them aside. Sure, there's a wealth of weirdness, but there's also a ton of stuff coming from amazing content creators who've eschewed the traditional TV model and gone online-only.

Learn more about crazy fast fiber Internet.

[↑ ting.com/internet](https://ting.com/internet)

