



TV Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

Every year, televisions are upgraded with new features and new technology. If you'd like to buy a new TV, here's a look at the features to consider when choosing new TV right now.

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TV screen size

Choosing what size of TV to buy is based on your personal size preference, your room size, and your mounting options. To decide on screen size you'll want to measure the TV and measure the space the TV will be in.

1. Measuring the screen size of a TV

Screen size is measured from one corner of the panel to the other without including the bezel or frame of the TV. To measure just pull your tape measure diagonally across the panel from the edge at the top of the screen to the edge at the bottom and jot down that number.

2. How to measure your space for a new TV

Take a tape and measure out the distance between your main seating area and the TV. You'll want to be comfortable while watching, so aim for a distance that's far enough away so you won't have to strain your neck to watch.

You can use this quick chart to give you an idea of how far the TV should be from your couch.

Size of TV	Comfortable viewing distance from couch
40 inch TV	60 inches
43 inch TV	65 inches to 70 inches
49 inch TV	75 inches – 80 inches
50 inch TV	75 inches – 80 inches
55 inch TV	80 inches – 90 inches
60 inch TV	90 inches to 100 inches
65 inch TV	105 inches to 115 inches
70 inch TV	115 inches to 120 inches
75 inch TV	120 inches to 130 inches
80 inch TV	130 inches to 140 inches
85 inch TV	Minimum 140 inches from couch



3. Is a bigger TV always better?

There are two scenarios where a bigger TV won't be better. If the room is too small for the TV you may feel too close to the screen. A bigger TV also won't be better if the television takes away from the overall aesthetic of the space.

Television resolution and screen types

Before you buy a new TV, you'll need to decide on TV resolution and TV backlight.

1. Resolution

Resolution is the number of vertical pixels or dots that make up your TV's picture. The more pixels your display has the better the overall image quality. The resolution you choose should match the content you're watching, so if you normally watch a lot of 4K content, you'll want to choose a TV with 4K resolution.

2. Aspect ratio

Aspect ratio is the ratio of the height to width of the display. It's important because it indicates how the TV can display different resolutions without stretching or adding blank space around the picture.

3. 1080P, 4K, or 8K resolution

There are a few different resolutions you can choose when buying a new TV: 1080p Full HD, 4K, and 8K.

- 1080p TV has two million pixels (1920 x 1080)
- 4K Ultra HD TV has eight million pixels (3840 x 2160)
- 8K TV has approximately thirty-three million pixels (7,680 by 4,320)

4K is currently the most popular option for TVs.

LED, QLED, or OLED

The main three TV types you'll hear the most right now are LED, QLED, and OLED.

1. LED TVs

LED TVs have a backlight that uses light emitting diodes. TVs of this type use hundreds or thousands of LEDs as the light source and you can find LED TVs in 1080p, 4K, and 8K.

2. QLED TVs

QLED TVs use LEDs as the backlight, but a QLED TV has quantum dots layered over LED diodes. These dots are really tiny, and each one lights up as an individual colour when the backlight shines on them.



3. Mini-LED TVs

Mini-LED TVs are a type of LED, but they are much smaller so you can pack thousands and thousands of Mini-LEDs into the same space you could only fit hundreds of LEDs. The more lights your TV has, the better control it will have for colour, contrast, and detail.

Mini-LEDs provide the backlight for QLED TVs, so if you choose a Mini-LED you'll have a TV with a layer of quantum dots to enhance the colour even further.

4. OLED TVs

OLED stands for organic light emitting diode, and an OLED TV does not have a backlight like an LED. It uses thousands of diodes that are self-illuminating, and each diode can turn off and on individually. OLED TVs can display millions of colour variations and they are the only TV that can display 'true black' because the diodes can turn completely off or on.

Features to look for when buying a new TV

Here's a look at some of the options on different TVs.

1. Refresh rate

Refresh rate refers to how often your screen refreshes. If you have a 60Hz refresh rate, it will refresh 60 times every second. If you have a 120Hz refresh rate, your TV will refresh 120 times per second. If you have a gamer in the house or you watch fast-paced sports, you'll want a TV with 120Hz. If you're just watching movies or TV, you can choose 60Hz or 120Hz.

2. HDMI and USB ports

Most new TVs have three HDMI ports, one HDMI ARC port for a soundbar or home receiver, and one or two USB ports. HDMI has also evolved to HDMI 2.1, and this upgrade supports higher resolution video and 4K refresh rates at 120Hz.

3. HDR

New TVs have HDR (High Dynamic Range) as an option. Having HDR on your TV means your TV can produce better peak brightness, deeper black levels, and auto-adjust for improved contrast overall. Many of the latest TVs now offer HDR10 as the standard format.

4. Smart TVs

Most of the latest TVs are also smart TVs. They connect to your Wi-Fi and have pre-loaded apps like Netflix, YouTube, and Disney+ pre-installed.

5. Sound quality

TVs have built-in speakers and use technology to boost and define output for movies, TV shows, and music. While the sound quality of a new TV is always going to be great, you can choose a sound bar for an



instant sound upgrade.

Specific types of TVs you can choose

One of the easiest ways to choose a new TV is to find one based on your specific interest. For example, there are gaming TVs and TVs for the tech enthusiast. If you'd like to stick to a low budget, there are also TVs under \$500.

1. TVs for gamers

Gaming TVs are a favourite for gamers. Gaming TVs have features built in to make console gaming a seamless experience. They have low input lag, so your gaming controllers match the action on screen. They also have fast refresh rate, with some models offering 120Hz for blistering fast gameplay.

2. TVs for the techie

The latest TVs have new AI processors that adapt to your favourite content, enhancing picture quality on the fly. They can also upscale older video. If you choose a new 4K TV, your must-watch 1080p movies can be upscaled to as close as 2K or 4K as possible.

You'll find new TV releases from big brands like Sony, Samsung, and LG and you can choose latest OLED TVs, newly released QLED TVs, and TVs with ultra-bright Mini-LED backlight.

3. TVs at low prices

If you're on a budget, you can find a TV you'll love for less than \$500. There are low priced gaming TVs and smart TVs, and you can choose a TV in sizes ranging from 32 inches up to 69 inches.

Which is better? A wall mounted TV or a table top TV?

Most new TVs are packaged with a stand, but the most popular choice for displaying a new TV is mounting it on the wall. The decision between wall mounting your TV or placing it on a tabletop usually comes down to how much space you have in your room. [TV mounts](#) are available in different types:

1. [Low-profile](#) flat mounts that hold your TV close to the wall in one spot
2. [Tilting mounts](#) that let you adjust the TV up and down
3. [Full motion mounts](#) you can pull away from the wall and tilt or adjust in many different positions

A wall-mounted TV takes up less space and you can adjust your TV until it's in the perfect position for every viewer. If you do have enough space and you'd like to add an extra piece of furniture to hold your gaming consoles, media streaming boxes, or cable box, a tabletop TV placed on a [TV stand](#) is a good choice.



Is a curved TV better than a flat TV?

Flat screen TVs are the most popular style on the market. You can find flat screen TVs in 4K and 8K, and they are offered in a full range of sizes from small to very large. Flat screen TVs are also available in all TV types including LED, OLED, QLED, and Mini-LED. While curved TVs offer a very immersive viewing experience, you'll want to keep in mind that they look best when you're sitting directly in front of the TV. If your couch will be off-center or you have multiple spots you can sit and watch, you may notice more glare when watching from different angles. There are also limited size and type options when choosing a curved screen TV, and you may find your only option for a large curved screen is 4K LED.