

Complete Guide to Buying an HDTV.

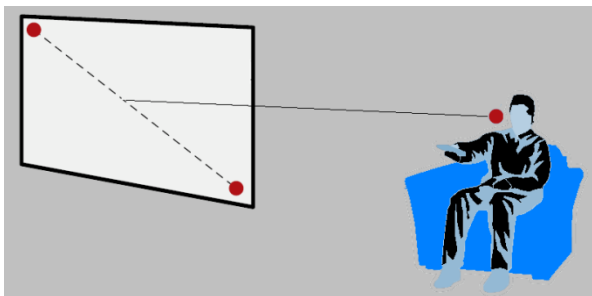
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The truth is that updating your existing TV setup is not cheap. You will probably find yourself spending more than you anticipated and probably go through a few headaches before everything is setup perfectly. To get the most out of your new setup you're most likely going to have to update everything. Unless, you have some A/V gear that does an excellent job and is compatible with your new purchase. Things I would probably stay away from are Composite and S-video inputs on existing equipment. These inputs are old, out dated, and your new purchase would work best with newer inputs and cables. Not to mention that those old inputs do not support HDTV resolution. S-Video and Composite cannot support HDTV signal. If a friend says it can, then he is just like over 50% of the consumers who think they are watching HD with non-HD source on their set. Focus more on Component, VGA, DVI, HDMI and Digital Audio cables.

What to buy should be considered the most important factor. Product and features can sometimes confuse the customer, but there are ways to determine what is right for you. First consider where you will be watching this new set. Once you have narrowed it down to a room or a wall do some measurements.

Start with the proper viewing height. The way to determine the viewing height is simple. The viewing height should be just about eye level to the center of the screen. I prefer a slightly above eye level picture, about 9 inches, that way if you are standing or sitting the picture will be at the perfect viewing height. Your viewing height should match your preference.



Next you should measure where you will be sitting. The viewing distance should be at least 1.5 times the screen size; my recommendation is 2.0 to 2.5 times the screen size. Any closer and the image may look bad. For example, if your screen size is 50 inches your distance away from the set should be a minimum of 6.5 Ft but anywhere from 8.0 Ft. to 10 Ft is ideal.

Common Questions To Buying A HDTV:

How should I approach buying a HDTV?

Buying a new HDTV is not as easy as it may sound. It's a lot like going out to eat and not knowing what's good.

My advice is read though this guide and research.

Where should I buy?

Plenty of people want to know if they should buy from Best Buy or other major chains or consider the risk of buying from an online store.

My advice is shop around. It really depends on your budget. It's nice to buy from reputable online dealers because you most likely will save on paying tax on your large purchase. That savings can amount to hundreds of dollars.

What should I buy?

Do I go with a Plasma, LCD, DLP, or Projector?

Plasma is where I would put my money. However all of the technologies have different benefits. I consider viewing angles very important.

What size screen should I get?

This is a very tough question because size is limited to your room and space.

You can test screen sizes with cardboard boxes cutouts. Cut the boxes to the dimensions and hang it on the wall. Right now 50" is the hot seller and sweet spot.

How far should I sit?

Minimum of 1.5x times the screen size?

My advice is 2.0x to 2.5x times the screen size.