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How To Cut the Cord on Cable TV

This page will teach you how to cut the cord and start saving money by getting rid of cable TV. It will get you set up watching your favorite channels using a streaming service and direct you to other helpful pages on our website for your more in-depth cord-cutting questions.

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Cord Cutting 101

A [report from DecisionData.org](#) shows that at over an average of \$200 per month, the cable TV bundle is one of the most expensive utility bills Americans will pay each month. This has driven many to research cutting their cable TV in favor of more affordable streaming services. To do this, all you need is affordable internet service, and TV content through some combination of live and on-demand streaming, and possibly and over the air antenna. However, before we get into “how to cut the cord,” one should take a look and ask themselves if they should cut the cord.

Should You Cut the Cord?

Generally, I think most people should cut the cord. But, it is crucial to set expectations before assuming everything to be as smooth and seamless as flipping through channels on a cable TV remote. While most things you watch will be easily accessible, occasionally, you may not find a way to legally watch a TV show, special event, or a specific sports team. The most important trait a cord cutter can possess is flexibility. Remember, you are leaving cable because of the expense. That expense is due to cable providing you with 150+ channels when you only watch 10. Cord-cutting saves you money by being more selective in what you pay for.

This also means that the more work and research you put into cord-cutting, the more you will save in the end. That's not to say you have to do a ton of research to cut the cord. Let's start with a quick and easy way to cut the cord.

Easy Way To Cut The Cord

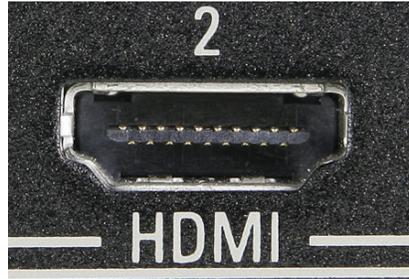
If you don't want to do a ton of research and are pretty flexible on what you watch, most people will be happy cutting the cord using a live streaming service that carries local channels and provides access to some basic cable channels. To view a live streaming service on your TV, all you need is a streaming device and an internet connection, and you can quickly become a cord cutter.

Using a Live Streaming Service

We'll cover the type of internet access you will need in a bit. First, let's look at watching a live streaming service on your TV. To stream any streaming service (live or on-demand) on your TV, you need a streaming device if you don't have a Smart TV or smart device that will allow

you to utilize Live TV streaming services. Currently, I recommend the Roku Express 4K+ for its features and affordability. Furthermore, it supports all the services mentioned in this guide.

The **Roku Express 4K+** supports nearly every streaming app on the market and connects to the HDMI port on your TV. Once plugged in and powered on, the on-screen instructions walk you right through setting it up. You can generally find them for [around \\$40](#).



an HDMI port

With the Roku setup, we just need to download a live streaming service app. There are a few on the market, but the easiest ones to cut the cord with are either **Hulu+Live TV** or **YouTube TV**. These are two live streaming services that offer a wide array of channels you'll find on cable while also carrying live local ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, and other local channels in most U.S. TV markets. I prefer Hulu because you also get access to Hulu's massive on-demand library. However, YouTube TV has a slightly better channel selection. In the end, it's a matter of preference. We have a good comparison article titled, [Picking The Best Live TV Streaming Service](#) for You to help you decide.

Hulu + Live TV service costs \$69.99 per month. If you are interested, check out the following resources on Hulu + Live TV:

- a full listing of live [channels on Hulu Live TV](#)
- see which channels [are available in your zip code on Hulu's website](#)
- our guide on [everything you need to know about Hulu](#)

YouTube TV is also good for Live TV, but they don't have the same level of on-demand offerings. The cost of their service is a bit more expensive at \$64.99 per month. If you are interested, check out the following resources on YouTube TV:

- our guide to [everything you need to know about Youtube TV](#)
- see channels available in your area on [their website](#)

Of course when it comes to picking a live streaming service, channel availability will be the main concern for most. We have a **channel listing for live TV streaming services** below:

- [Hulu Live Channel List](#)
- [YouTube TV Channel List](#)
- [Philo TV Channel List](#)
- [fuboTV Channel List](#)
- [Vidgo Channel List](#)
- [Sling TV Channels](#)
- [DIRECTV STREAM Channel list](#)

Internet Access

Both of these services provide you with local TV, basic cable channels, and even features like on-demand and a cloud-based DVR. If you try these services out and think they will work for you, call your provider and see how much their [internet-only plans](#) are.

You won't need a ton of [internet speed to cut the cord](#). Generally, if you are only watching 1 TV at a time, 10-15 Mbps should be fine. You

should be able to get an internet-only plan for \$50-60 a month.

Summing up the Easy Method

To recap what we've done to cut the cord easily:

1. Purchased a Roku Express 4K+
2. Purchased a Live TV Streaming Service
3. Canceled our cable TV and just have stand-alone internet.

The one-time cost of the Roku was about \$40, which is much cheaper than paying a cable box device fee every month. Then we are playing slightly over \$100 for the live streaming service and an internet-only plan.

If you went with YouTube TV over Hulu, you might want to pick up another on-demand streaming service like [Netflix](#) or [Amazon Prime](#), so you have some on-demand shows and movies to watch. Also, there is a ton of [free streaming available on Roku](#). If you need a phone service, you can use an inexpensive internet-based phone service like [PhonePower](#). That should be much cheaper than your cable bill. However, that's just the easy way to cut the cord. Let's go a bit deeper.

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A Cheaper Way to Cut the Cord

This method is very similar to the "Easy Way to Cut the Cord." We will still need an [internet-only plan](#), and I'll still recommend getting the [Roku Express 4K+](#). However, this time we can save money on a live streaming service by making use of a TV antenna or Locast for broadcast TV for ABC, NBC, CBS, and FOX.

Locast

There are two ways to get free broadcast TV. The first is a free streaming service called "Locast." This service streams ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, and other local channels free in almost half of U.S. households. See our [detailed guide to Locast](#) to see if it's available near you. If so, just download locast to your Roku, and you are all set on watching your live local channels.

Use a TV Antenna

If Locast doesn't work for you, then you may want to take a look at using a TV antenna. The difficulty of using a TV antenna varies based on how close you are to broadcast TV towers. To see if a TV antenna will work for you. Follow these steps:

1. Use the digital TV reception page at the FCC ([here is the link](#))
2. Type in your zip code and they will show a list of Networks in your area.
3. If the essential TV networks are in the Green or Yellow, then pick up one of these [flat antennas](#) for around \$20. If it doesn't work, Amazon let you send it back for a full refund.

If most of your networks aren't in the green or yellow and want to try an antenna, take a look at our guide to [digital TV over the air](#).

Cheaper Live TV Streaming

If Locast or a TV antenna worked for you, now you don't need to worry about streaming your local channels and subscribe to a more affordable live streaming service to get some other cable TV channels like Philo or Sling TV.

Philo TV only costs \$25 per month and offers around 60 channels found on cable. They offer a **free trial** and there is no long-term contract. Check out these resources on Philo for more information on their service:

- our guide to [everything you need to know about Philo TV](#)
- a [full list of channels on Philo TV](#)

Sling TV costs \$35 per month and offers a more robust channel package than Philo. They also offer a free trial. Check out these resources for more information on Sling TV:

- our [comprehensive guide on Sling TV](#)
- Sling offers numerous channel plans, and we dig into them in [Sling TV channels explained](#)

Saving a Little More

Now that our local TV channels were free, we were able to save by getting a more affordable live streaming service. Factoring the cost of internet service and Philo, your monthly cost is down to about \$70-\$80 per month. That's likely much cheaper than any cable bill you will get.

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A Deeper Dive into Cord Cutting

So in our last section, "Cord Cutting 101," we looked at the easiest way to cut the cord using a single streaming service to give us live TV and some on-demand content. However, if you want to save some more money, you will want to examine various streaming devices, internet options, live streaming services, over-the-air sources, on-demand streaming services, etc.

To put all the information in one page would be impractical. So in this section, I'll categorize the different aspects of cord-cutting and link you to a deeper dive.

General Cord Cutting Guides

Cable TV Alternatives – This article provides a high-level view of streaming services like [Hulu](#), [Philo](#), [Sling TV](#), [FuboTV](#), [Netflix](#), [Amazon Prime Video](#), and more.

Tips To Save When Cutting the Cord – This article provides must-use guidance on how to maximize your savings when cutting the cord.

Watch Live Sports – This page provides the details on where to catch live sports after cutting the cord. The article also contains links to different articles on how to watch each particular sport after cutting the cord.

How to Watch Local Channels – This article covers how to watch local networks over streaming where possible. It also provides an overview of watching broadcast TV over the air.

Cheap Phone Service – This article explains where to find affordable phone service after cutting the cord on your Pay-TV bundle.

Making Free Phone Calls – This article explains how to make free phone calls over the internet.

What is A VPN – This guide explains why you may want to look into using a VPN. It explains how a VPN can keep your private identity information safe online.

TV Streaming Guides

Streaming Services – This is where you will find reviews and guides to every streaming service we cover.

Streaming Devices – This page explains how to choose between various TV streaming devices like [Roku](#), [Amazon Fire TV](#), [Chromecast](#), etc.

Comparison of Live TV Streaming Services – Compares and contrasts various live TV streaming services like [Hulu](#), [Philo](#), [Sling TV](#), [FuboTV](#), and [DIRECTV STREAM](#).

Watch Any TV Channel Online – This page links to a specific “How To Watch” guide for each channel. The guide explains how to watch that channel online without needing a satellite or cable TV subscription.

TV Everywhere Apps – Covers how to use live streaming services to watch an individual channel’s TV everywhere app on a streaming device. It also covers which streaming services support which channel app.

Internet Access Guides

Internet-Only Service – Look to this page for information on getting internet service without bundling it with a pay-TV subscription.

How To Get Cheap Internet Access – This guide explains how to keep your internet provider’s promotional rates even in an area with a lack of broadband competition.

Home Networking – This links to all our guides and tips for improving your home network and Wi-Fi. This is essential reading for those looking to eliminate home networking headaches.

TV Antenna Guides

Ultimate Guide to TV Antennas – This article covers all you need to know about getting a TV antenna for free local TV channels

DVRs – This post provides a comprehensive guide to picking a DVR to record from your TV antenna when you cut the cord.

One Antenna for Multiple TVs – Explains how to properly split antenna signals to multiple TVs without impacting your TV reception

How To Ground a TV Antenna – This explains how I grounded my TV antenna. This is important for anyone using an outdoor TV antenna

Improve Antenna TV Reception – Learn techniques for improving your OTA TV reception when installing your TV antenna.

Need More Information?

If this article didn't answer your specific question, head over to our [Home Page](#)! It will guide you to affordable internet providers, streaming services to meet your needs, information on antennas, and many more tools and resources to help you save money on TV and Internet

access.

For tips and tricks on cutting the cord and other tech topics be sure to join our [Facebook Page](#).

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