

Guide to cutting the cord

Where to start:

Test your internet speed to make sure it has the capabilities to stream your content.

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- Internet with 5.0 mbps (Megabits per second) capability
- 4k needs 25 mbps
- Multiple streams at once 15 mbps

Test your internet speed at: <https://www.speedtest.net/>

In order to have your internet price be reasonable be prepared to do some research. Most cable internet providers will hike up your price once you unbundle your package. I would advise finding pricing information on other internet providers. Try to match the speed you have/need, and make sure to ask if they have a data streaming cap on their service. When you call your internet provider lead with “I want to talk with someone to set up a date to cancel my internet”, and they will generally redirect you to a retention associate who you can haggle the price with. I would be prepared to cancel the service if they will not work on the price with you.

Unbundling may also require you to have to get a new phone service. Just be aware that these options will not work if you lose power.

- Ooma
- Straight Talk Wireless Home Phone
- Magic Jack

Google Home is another option, but you cannot make 911 calls from that service.

Here are two articles to read more on the different options in order to pick the right one for you.

<https://clark.com/technology/cheap-options-home-phone-service/>

<https://www.cordcuttersnews.com/how-to-save-money-on-home-phone-with-cord-cutting/>

There are multiple options for different streaming devices

- Roku
- Amazon Fire Stick
- Apple Tv
- Gaming Consoles
- Google Chromecast
- Blu-Ray Players
- Smart TV's

You can get your local channels for free with an antenna. There are indoor and outdoor antennas that allow access to local channels. Research what channels are available based on your zip code:

<https://www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps>

For more information on antennas and how to choose the right one look at these websites:

<https://www.tomsguide.com/us/best-tv-antennas,review-2354.html>

<https://www.techhive.com/article/3322842/the-best-tv-antennas-for-cord-cutters.html>

A library card will also provide access to some TV shows and movies. Online content is available with a card through the Hoopla app.

What type of services are available?

The big three on demand providers are Amazon Prime, Netflix, and Hulu. If you are already paying for Amazon Prime you have access to Amazon Prime Video.

- Netflix- *basic* \$8.99/*standard* \$12.99/*premium* \$15.99
- Hulu- \$5.99/ *no ads* \$11.99/ *+live TV* \$44.99
- Amazon Prime- \$12.00 month/\$119 year

There are quite a few streaming services offered now. A lot of these services have different tier packages, add on packages, and ala carte options.

- Sling TV (Orange/Blue)
- Hulu Live
- YouTube TV
- DirectTV Now
- PlayStation Vue
- Fubo TV

There are even individual channel options.

- CBS All Access
- HBO
- Showtime
- Starz
- Acorn TV (English)
- Crunchyroll (anime)

See attached spreadsheet for pricing and channel options. For further information or to see all the individual options check out each services website.

Cutting the cord used to not be ideal for sports fans, but there are quite a few options available. Here is an article that breaks down the different services, it will provide a more in depth look at how to have access to live sports.

<https://flixed.io/best-live-sports-streaming-services/>

Cutting the cord may not be right for everyone. Here are a few questions to ask before taking the leap.

1. How many users do I have in my household and does the streaming service I am looking at support that many users?
2. How many streaming devices would I need to have?
3. Is my cable bundled with my internet and phone? If so, how expensive will it be without all of them together?
4. Are my favorite cable channels available? If so, which services provide them and what are the costs?

5. How many different streaming services would I need to sign up for? Is the cost savings worth it?
6. How much live TV do I watch?
7. Do you like to channel surf? Will the streaming service I pick allow that?
8. Does your internet provider put a limit on how much data you can use?
Contact your internet provider if you are not sure.

You want to cut the cord, here are some steps that should get you started.

- Research options for streaming services and decide the right option for you
- Make a list of your channels you want, and your sports needs to determine the right service for you.
- Pause or suspend your cable service first, before cancelling.
- Make sure to determine if your internet speed is fast enough for streaming.
- Shop around for internet service
- Take inventory of streaming devices you might already have before you buy something new.
- Buy an antenna and a streaming device, if needed.
- Sign up for a free trial, or test out the streaming service you are interested in. ***Do not forget to cancel before your free trial ends***

This tends to be true of all streaming options, so take advantage of free trials to find the right service for you. One of the best things about cord cutting is that you can add, cancel, or pause your services as much as you would like. If you only need live TV during a specific event or season, then only sign up during that time.

Streaming services are constantly upgraded and changing, plus new services are being added all the time. Keep on the lookout for Disney + coming soon. Most importantly enjoy the savings, freedom, and the multitude of options that are available.