

# TECH BOOT CAMP: Cut the Cable Cord

## Can I really get TV for free?

With a **good internet connection**, and a computer, tablet, or smartphone, you can watch free TV shows and movies without subscribing to an expensive cable package. There are also many resources, such as **Netflix** or **CraveTV**, that put thousands of tv shows and movies at your fingertips with a reasonably priced monthly subscription.

## How does it work?

Many television broadcasters have websites, and apps available for tablets and smartphones, where their tv shows and movies can be accessed anytime, and usually for free. They are able to provide this service because they earn money on the commercials they play. If you do not enjoy watching a show or movie on your computer or tablet screen you can find streaming devices, such as **Chromecast**, that connect to a television set and will play the movies and tv shows playing on your tablet.

## Pros

1. It is 100% free, legal and supports content creators.
2. Watch shows on your own schedule, not the TV's schedule.
3. Pause, restart, rewind, and fast forward as you please.
4. Whole seasons or past seasons of shows are sometimes available.
5. Shorter and often less frequent commercial breaks.
6. Some networks create TV shows and movies to be available only online.

## Cons

1. Getting everything set up the first time can be a hassle.
2. Controlling internet TV can be a little harder.
3. Streaming video can tax your internet bandwidth and breach your download cap.
4. Videos sometimes skip, freeze, or can be grainy.
5. You can't "channel surf" with internet TV.
6. Some content, like live sports, is rarely available online.

## Streaming Devices

A streaming media player/device is what connects your television or home theater to the Internet and allows you to stream video and music from online services. Many streaming media players also feature built-in Wi-Fi for wireless network connections, and most include their own dedicated remote control.

The most popular streaming devices are **Chromecast, Apple TV, Roku, Amazon Fire & Samsung Allshare Cast**. Each device has pros and cons, and some apps are not compatible with certain players. Devices can be purchased at Walmart, Best Buy, Amazon, and more. We recommend doing your research to find the one that's right for you.

*Android boxes are illegal in Canada, and are not recommend.*

# Websites & Apps

Find these television networks and providers online to watch tv shows and movies for free. Some free providers have only a limited selection of shows available. Many of these apps connect to streaming devices so they can be enjoyed on your television.

**Green - watch on website or app**

**Red - watch on website only**

**\$ - monthly subscription needed**

**@ - free, but paid content available**

Acorn TV \$ (British tv shows)

Amazon Prime Video \$

APTN

Bloomberg News

BNN

Bravo

Cartoon Network

CBC

CBS All Access

City TV

Comedy Network (limited selection)

CPAC

CraveTV \$ (includes HBO & movies)

Crunchyroll @

CTV

CTV News

Discovery Channel (limited selection)

DramaFever @

Family (limited selection)

Food Network Canada

Global

Haystack TV News

Hayu \$

HGTV Canada

History Canada (limited selection)

Hoopla Digital (use your library card)

Indieflix (use your library card)

Kanopy (use your library card)

Knowledge Kids

MHz Choice \$

MTV Canada

Mubi \$

Much

Netflix \$

OMNI

OLN (limited selection)

OUTtvGO \$

PopcornFlix (free movies)

Qello Concerts (use your library card)

Showcase

Shudder \$

Slice

SnagFilms (free movies)

Space (limited selection)

Sundance Now \$

The Comedy Network

The Shopping Channel (watch live)

TVO & TVO Kids

Tubi TV (free tv and movies)

Viceland

W Network (limited selection)

Youtube @

## Helpful Websites

Free TV Internet - A Complete Guide for Canadians

<https://www.howtosavemoney.ca/free-internet-tv>

Cutting the Cord in Canada

<http://cutcord.ca/>

Tips for Cutting the Cord and Getting Great TV in 2017

<https://blog.bestbuy.ca/tv-audio/tips-cutting-cord-getting-great-tv>

