

# FREE TV! from an over-the-air, HD ANTENNA

Jay Turner 7/4/2014

































I wondered, with cable prices going up and up, if it was possible for us to get good television using a new over-the-air, digital antenna. Could I cancel cable TV? What equipment would it take to receive TV? What would it cost? I wanted to know. The following report gives the conclusions that I found by actual testing and answers many questions you may have. The tests were done June 2013.

**Is it legal?** Yes, 100%.

**Is it really FREE?** Yes, 100%. With the right antenna in the right location it is possible to receive many TV stations.

**What type of quality can I get?** The quality of the picture is every bit as good as cable TV and if HDTV is available, you will get that too. Note: With Click! you pay extra for HDTV!

**What stations will I receive?** You should get all of the following, I get a couple more:

	28.1		5.2		33.5
	28.2	IND	16.1		33.6
IND	28.3	IND	16.2		33.7
	22.1		11.1		22.1
	22.2		13.1		9.1
	22.3		20.1	V-ME	9.2
	4.1	CHURCHCHAN	20.2		9.3
	4.2	JUCETV	2		7.1
	51.1		20.4		7.2
	51.2	SMILE	20	IND	24.1
	7.1		42.1	IND	44.1
	7.2		33.1		44.2
	5.1		33.2	IND	44.3
			33.3		44.4
		SHOP	33.4		44.5

**What stations will I not get?** There are many companies that design programs to sell to cable companies. These are not broadcast over the air and can't be received with an antenna. These include A&E, CNBC, HBO, ESPN and the list goes on.

**How do I know what is on? Is there a program listing?** The program listings for all of the stations that are available in the NSHD can be found at <http://www.titantv.com/default.aspx> Log in to this site and create your own account. Then "Create a New Channel Lineup" and select Broadcast for the antenna channels.

**You say, “right antenna.” What does that mean?** There has been a big change in TV antennas in the last few years and HDTV digital antennas are nothing like the rabbit ears of yesterday. Still, not all digital antennas are alike. Make sure you get one of the newer ones designed for HDTV TV.

I purchased mine from [www.gomohu.com](http://www.gomohu.com) a unit called the “Leaf 30”. An amplified version is available called Leaf 50. According to Mohu, “A top-performing indoor antenna will allow you to receive the top 20 shows for FREE in full high 1080p definition.”



Two of my neighbors purchased digital antennas from Fred Meyer. They are made by Winegard and their HDTV Antenna is called FlatWave. There is also an amplified version called FlatWave amped.

Three homes in the NSHD use these antennas without amplification, but some homes in the NSHD may need an amplifier.

The new digital antennas are not large at all; Samantha is holding Leaf 30 to show the size. I tried ours in various locations inside our home with and without an amplifier. I thought with the 30 mile distance to the transmitters, and the 30 mile specification with the Leaf 30, that the more powerful Leaf 50, would be needed. I was able to test both the Leaf 30 and Leaf 50 just by adding or removing the amplifier.

**Which direction do I point the antenna?** The TV towers that broadcast the TV programs to the NSHD are located in the hills West of Bremerton, Queen Hill in Seattle and Tiger Mt. near North Bend; all about 30 miles away. An antenna must be able to “see” all three locations. Samantha’s left hand is pointing to the stations on the hills west of Bremerton, she is looking at the Seattle stations and the right hand points to North Bend stations. Samantha is looking in the direction to point a digital antenna in the NDHD.



**What is the “right location”?** **Where should I place the antenna in my house?** The best location for an antenna is up, higher is better, looking over the top of neighbor houses and trees. The antennas mentioned above, are made for inside installation and “looking” through a window is also superior to “looking” through a wall.



We ended up placing our antenna in a 2nd story bedroom window facing North. You can just see the antenna in the 2nd floor window. From the inside the antenna is hidden by the curtain.

One of our neighbors used a 2nd floor window. The other neighbor put his in his 3<sup>rd</sup> floor kids play room and his antenna “looks” through the wall, again facing North. UP AND NORTH is the rule.

In the end I found by testing that it is LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION.

The right antenna in the right location, UP AND NORTH. In our house, we received ALL available stations without the amplifier. This was not true with other inside locations I tested. I should mention that placing the antenna right next to our TV did not work at all.

**Ok, I have the antenna installed UP AND NORTH. Now what?** Along with the antenna, I needed to purchase a coaxial cable to connect to our TV. So did one my neighbors.

I used the existing house wiring that I paid for when I had cable installed. I just screwed the digital antenna cable in place of the cable from the street. It worked and I was ready to go. It worked with our flat screen TV (after a channel search) as well as with an older TV. The old analog TV needed a digital-to-analog converter box (this is not a TV cable box). The digital-to-analog box needed a channel search too and so will all of your TV's as you connect them.

One neighbor decided to run new coax cable and bypass the existing wiring. That worked for him. The other neighbor had a simple installation as his TV was already UP AND NORTH. His best antenna location was only a few feet from his TV so he just connected the two with the coax that came with the antenna and was done!

**How do I find out if FREE TV! will work in my home?** I suggest you buy an antenna and a length of coax cable. Use the UP AND NORTH idea and select a temporary location even if you run the cable through your house to your TV. Then test like I did. Use it for a few days and see if you are satisfied with FREE TV! If you don't get all the stations, try another location. Still can't get them all, try an amplifier. Then, when you are satisfied, find the best way to install your antenna and cable.

NOTE: Every time you change the antenna location, you will need to run the auto seek or channel search program on your TV. You determine the quality of each location by counting the number of stations you receive.

**Will I need an antenna amplifier?** If you receive all the channels, an amplifier will not make them better. If you are missing a few, an amplifier may get them all for you. To really know, you need to test. Every TV receiver is different, every home is different, you need to try it.

**Ok, can I cancel my cable TV?** I thought you would never ask! We in the NSHD are geographically located for good over-the-air, digital antenna reception. Why pay for cable when so much TV available for free? I cancelled in June 2013, over a year ago, and my neighbors June 2014.

**I have to ask, what is "auto seek" or "channel search"?** Auto seek is a MENU program in your TV that automatically cycles through all of available channels and finds all of the ones that have useable signals. (See your TV manual or on-screen menu.) You want an antenna location that will allow you to receive all the stations listed on the first page.