

# Top Ten Tips for Indoor Reception

By Antennas Direct Tech Support

Reception of digital signals indoors can be a challenge and it is generally impossible to predict reliable reception due to all the potential variables. Please use these tips to help get the best reception possible at your location. Do not expect indoors reception to be reliable beyond 20-30 miles (even if you do everything correctly) unless you are extremely fortunate in your location. If you are behind trees or in a dense urban environment or in a basement, expect it to be far more difficult and challenging, perhaps not even possible.

1. Be prepared to experiment with various antenna locations and orientations.
2. The location of the antenna is the first thing to consider. The **BEST** location is usually in front of a window that faces the direction of your local broadcast towers ([www.antennapoint.com](http://www.antennapoint.com)). Every other location will likely be not as good. When starting out, please do your best to place the antenna in the best location possible for signal reception. You can always work backwards to where you'd actually like the antenna to be situated. Use a longer cable, if necessary, to extend the attached cable. Coaxial cable and couplers are readily available at many retail and hardware stores.
3. Rotation of the antenna may help reception. Generally, signals are best received when the reception elements are facing broadside to the direction of the broadcast towers. Since the signals may reflect off of walls and items in a room, you should try different orientations to see what works best in your home.
4. If your home or building has radiant barrier insulation, metal siding, stucco with wire mesh, brick or masonry siding, plaster with metal lathe interior walls, or steel and concrete construction, the only way a TV signal can penetrate into the interior will usually be through openings such as windows or doors. If the windows have metallic low-E coating or if there is a metal windows screen or security bars installed, then signals might not be able to come in via those windows.
5. Avoid placing the antenna directly on or next to the TV set, if possible. Since all digital TVs have computers inside, the sets may emit radio signals that interfere with reception, especially on VHF stations. Avoid placing near personal computers or other digital and electronic devices.
6. Using a UHF antenna with a reflector such as the Micron R/XG, ClearStream 1/Convertible, ClearStream 2, or DB2e will usually help indoors by reducing the signals that are reflected inside the room.
7. Using an amplifier on an indoors antenna may help slightly, but, in general, the difference is small and depends mostly on the difference in sensitivity of the amplifier versus the sensitivity of the TV's tuner. Our ClearStream Variable Line Amplifier placed on either of the two middle settings may help in these situations.
8. Reception of VHF channels indoors is often complicated by lower transmitting power and higher levels of electrical interference. An antenna for channels 7-13 that is the same performance as a UHF antenna will be about four times larger than that UHF antenna. Antennas for channels 2-6 will be another 3-4 times larger than that. It's almost impossible to make a high-performing indoors VHF antenna. Our ClearStream 2V with a CJ-Mount and Base Cover kit is our best available option for an indoor antenna with VHF support. Optionally, you can add a set of conventional rabbit ears via a UHF/VHF signal combiner to an indoor UHF antenna.
9. If you don't have a window that faces the desired direction and you live in a building that doesn't allow much signal in due to its construction materials, then satisfactory indoor reception simply may not be possible.
10. Be persistent! Rescan and adjust, rescan and adjust, rescan and adjust!

Be prepared to go outdoors with an antenna if necessary!