



Cut The Cord!

**How to Tell
Your Cable
Company to Take a Hike
and Get TV, Movies
and Phone Service for
a Fraction of the Cost**

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How to Go "ITV"... the Short Form

- 1. Cancel all cable and phone services except for internet.**
 - Do the math - the savings may be worth early termination costs!
 - Find the best provider who offers 24-25mbps cable service. (Faster is *not* needed for most users!)
 - Buy your own cable modem, router and WiFi point. Don't pay excessive rental fees for junk!
- 2. Change to an independent internet phone provider.**
 - Vonage is probably the best choice for most households – inexpensive, standard, feature-rich.
 - Broadvoice is a good alternative; Ooma good but works differently.
 - Yes, you can port your existing numbers, and cheap international service is available.
 - Choose the minimum plan that meets your needs. Upgrade only if you have regular overages.
- 3. Buy a good streaming appliance for your primary video system. (Buy an appropriate-quality streaming device for each secondary system – or use existing devices you have.)**
 - Roku is the best all-around choice for most newcomers – independent and easy to use.
 - Amazon Fire Stick/TV is a good choice if you're an Amazon Prime customer.
 - Google ChromeCast is a good choice if you have good smartphones, tablets or laptops to use.
- 4. See if a local TV antenna brings you any usable OTA stations.**
 - Visit www.fcc.gov/engineering/dtvmaps for specific channel availability in your area.
 - Visit www.AntennasDirect.com for good information and product reviews.
- 5. Try the free trials on the subscription services, then keep the ones you like.**
 - Netflix for movies and most older TV series, through prior season
 - Hulu for more TV series, often through current episodes
 - Amazon Video for pay-per-view TV shows and movies, and original content (much becomes free for Prime customers)
 - Vudu for pay-per-view TV shows and movies
 - Consider the "streaming cable" providers like Sling and (soon) Hulu and Comcast if you need more.

Need More Help? I *can't* be a full-charge tech support guru, but I can answer *very selective* individual questions at cordcutter@nitropress.com. Visit the Cut the Cord page at www.nitropress.com/cordcutter.php!

Note: I have no connection to any of these companies or providers except as a customer. My talk is a noncommercial community service.

Not Ready to Cut? Try These Steps Instead

Try It Out... Before You Cut!

1. Explore existing streaming options in your TV, disc player or game console. (Be sure to set up the internet connection well.)
2. Buy a streaming device (or use a tablet or laptop) to get the full experience. Roku Express is only about \$25 but may be too limited if you decide you like streaming.
3. Explore all the free and "cable authorized" channels. There are hundreds!
4. Try getting OTA channels at your location.
5. Get trial subscriptions to the pay services.
6. If you like it... cut the cable!

Even If You KEEP the Cord...

1. Buy your own cable modem. (Arris/Motorola SB6141 for most.)
2. ...and router and WiFi point, if rented.
3. Look into buying your own cable box.
4. Consider switching phone providers.
5. Put your cable box or DVR on a timer to shut it off during unused hours. (Keep in mind it has to be on to record, and may need an hour after restart to fully reload channel information etc.)
6. Use what streaming options you have – including buying an inexpensive one – to fill out your choices... and learn to like it!

More Information About ITV Streaming Providers

Streaming Devices

Roku	www.roku.com	\$25-\$125 (6 models)	Has good martphone control app
Amazon Fire TV	www.amazon.com/fire-tv	\$40-140 (3 models)	Great choice if you already have Prime
Apple TV	www.apple.com/tv	\$149-\$199	Integrated access to iTunes store & library
Google Chromecast	www.google.com/Chromecast	\$35	"Casting" connector only, needs device

Streaming Providers

JustWatch	www.justwatch.com/us	Free	Movie/TV show locator service (has app, too)
Netflix	www.netflix.com	\$10/mo, free trial	Subscription TV shows and movies
Amazon Instant Video	www.amazon.com/Amazon-Video/	Pay-per-view	PPV TV shows and movies
Amazon Prime	www.amazon.com/prime/	\$99/year	Same but many programs free
Vudu	www.vudu.com	Pay-per-view	PPV TV shows and movies
HBO NOW	order.hbonow.com	\$15/mo, free trial	
Showtime	www.sho.com	\$11/mo, free trial	
CBS All-Access	www.cbs.com/all-access/	\$6-10/mo	CBS programming only
Sling TV	www.sling.com	\$20-\$40/mo	"Streaming cable" provider
FCC TV Station Info	www.fcc.gov/engineering/dtvmaps	Free	Specific local TV station availability info
Antennas Direct	www.AntennasDirect.com	Commercial site	All the info and sales on antennas you need

Internet Telephone Providers

Vonage	www.vonage.com	\$13/mo per line	400 minute plan, free equipment
Broadvoice	www.broadvoice.com	\$8-20/mo	Free equipment
Ooma	www.ooma.com	\$4-5/mo	\$99 device required

Internet Providers

Find in Your Area	www.broadbandnow.com
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Going to choose Vonage? Email me for an invitation and we'll both get \$50 bonuses!
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