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Onn roku tv antenna setup

By Adrian Grahams i antenna 2 image by Vita Vanaga from Fotolia.com Television antennas need a clear, unobstructed view toward the TV transmitter to pick up strong signals, so it's important to site your antenna high enough above ground level to achieve this. Always position the antenna high enough to clear nearby obstructions, such as buildings and trees. In most cases, a rooftop TV antenna securely mounted and attached to the eaves of your house will receive a strong enough signal to ensure your television picture is clear and stable. If you don't have a clear line of sight to the TV transmitter from your rooftop, you might need a longer mast to raise the height of the antenna, but never install an antenna more than 6 feet above the mounting bracket. Another option in poor signal areas, or to receive distant TV stations, is a "long-range" or amplified antenna to improve reception. In some isolated locations, or screened from TV transmitters by hills or mountains, you might need an amplified antenna raised to a considerable height to stand any chance of receiving digital terrestrial television signals. In this case, it's worth considering alternatives such as cable television or digital satellite television, because the cost of installing a TV tower or antenna mast with guy wires can be considerable by comparison. Roku is a well-known maker of streaming sticks and media players, but there's a growing selection of TV's with Roku already built-in, from brands such as TCL, Sharp, RCA, Philips, Hitachi, Hisense, Insignia, and Element. The remote control provided for Roku TV's is very similar to those provided with streaming sticks and streamers, but there are additional things your Roku TV remote can do. Let's take a look at what some of the buttons on a Roku TV remote are, and how to use them. Roku TV Remote Home Button and Screen. To find out what your Roku TV can do after you turn it on, you need a starting point. That starting point is the Home Screen. To get to the Home Screen on a Roku TV, just press the Home button, which has an icon that looks like a house. Once on the home screen, you'll see the main operational categories, as well as the list of inputs and streaming apps. If you press the home button while watching a TV or streaming program, it will be interrupted, however, you can't display the home screen at the same time you're watching TV or streaming content. Roku TV Remote Back Button. The Back button is a shortcut that will automatically return you to the previous step or screen. For example, if you're watching something via an app, the back button may return you to the previous content selection screen. If you're watching something on a TV channel or input, it will return you back to the home screen. In this case, the button can be redundant as the home button also takes you back to the home screen. Roku TV Remote Channel Jumpback, Sleep Time, and View More Options Buttons. Channel Recall/Jump Back: If you're watching TV programs via the antenna/cable (no box) connection, this will take you back to the previous channel. If you're viewing streaming content, you'll go back one position. If you're in search and are entering search terms, it will take you back one letter. Sleep Timer: This allows you to decide when the TV shuts off. Time intervals include 30 minutes, 1, 1.5, 2, and 3 hours. View More Options: This button takes you directly to a more detailed video and audio settings menu. Roku TV Remote More Options Button. When you press the More Options button, you access more detailed settings for both video and audio. Some of these are accessible separately from the main home menu categories, but options such as Picture Size, Audio Effect, and Advanced Picture Settings can only be accessed via More Options. The number and type of advanced setting options may vary depending on brand and specific model number of the Roku TV, but here some examples include: Picture Size: This adjusts the Aspect Ratio. The selections are Auto, Normal (16x9), Direct (4x3 or 16x9 depending on content), Stretch, and Zoom. Audio Effect: Provides presets to optimize audio quality for different types of content, including Normal, Speech, Theater, Big Bass, High Treble, and Music. These settings only apply to the TV's speakers. Advanced Picture Settings: This menu allows you to adjust several picture parameters, separately for each input source, including streaming. In addition to familiar settings, such as LED backlight intensity, brightness, contrast, etc, you can also set the color temperature, which makes the picture warmer or cooler, as well as the Game Mode, which decreases input lag for a faster response but slightly impacts picture quality. The More Options button only works if you're viewing content. If you press it while viewing the home page, it doesn't work. Re-ordering Apps on Home Menu. Every time you add an app channel to your home screen, it's automatically placed at the bottom of your listings. However, you can move it to a better spot if you wish: Press the Home button on your Roku TV Remote. Press right on the directional pad to access the channel list. Use the directional keypad to highlight the channel you wish to move. Press the More Options button. Select Move Channel. Move the channel to its new location using the directional keypad Press OK on the remote. Rename Inputs on Home Menu. Using the directional keypad on the Roku TV remote, you can label the TV's inputs so that they are easier to identify. This means that instead of HDMI 1, 2, 3, AV, and Antenna, you can using the onscreen menu system to associate the input names with the type of devices you have connected to the TV. From the TVs Home Page, use the directional keypad arrows and OK button to perform the following steps: Go to Settings. Select TV Inputs. Select the input you want to rename. Select Rename. Scroll through the available list of names and select the one you want to use by pressing OK on the TV remote's directional keypad. Repeat these steps for each input you want to rename. Roku TV Remote Playback Control Buttons. If you're playing pre-recorded streaming content, you can use these buttons to control playback. For left to right, they're Reverse/Rewind, Play/Pause, and Fast Forward. These operate just like the playback controls on a VCR, DVD, Blu-ray, Ultra HD Blu-ray Player, DVR, or other media streamers. If you're watching something live, these buttons are non-operational. On some live webcam sites, you may be able to pause the video feed, but when you press play it will skip ahead to the live video. You're also unable to reverse or fast forward a live video or TV program. Roku TV Remote Channel Shortcut Buttons. Every Roku remote, including their TV remotes, feature shortcut buttons that take you to select internet streaming channels, including Netflix, Hulu, Sling TV, and AT&T Now. This selection varies depending on the TV brand and model. Netflix is always featured, but other shortcuts may be included for Amazon Prime, Google Play, Paramount+ (Formerly CBS All Access), VUDU, or other selections. Roku TV Remote Mute and Volume Control Buttons. Located on the right side of a Roku TV Remote Control are the Mute, Volume Down, and Volume Up buttons. Roku TV Remote Sleep Timer vs Microphone Button. If you have a Roku TV that comes with an Enhanced Remote, you might notice a Microphone button in place of the Sleep Timer button. Press the button, wait for the onscreen prompt, then speak a command you want Roku to execute. Examples include: "Find (program, video, app)." "Launch (app)." "Go to (app)." "Switch the input to HDMI 1." "Switch to antenna TV." "Change broadcast channels Channel Up/Down." "Last channel." "Tune to ABC." "Tune to channel 6 dot 1 (6.1)." "Launch Smart Guide." If your Roku TV doesn't come with an enhanced remote, it may be offered as an upgrade option. This offer varies with by TV brand. Roku TV Enhanced Remote Earphone Jack. On the left side of Roku Enhanced Remotes, you may have a mini-plug for connecting earphones, which are provided in the package with your Roku TV and remote. This allows you to listen to the content shown on your TV privately. The TV's speakers will automatically disable when you plug the earphones in. If your TV speakers don't disable when you plug in the earphones, you can disable and enable them through the Audio settings category in your home menu. The TV's speakers will become active again when you unplug the earphones. Roku Mobile App. In addition to the remote that comes with your Roku TV, there are three additional ways you can control some or most of its functions. These options will work with any Roku TV. Roku Mobile App. This iOS and Android app enables you to use your smartphone to control your Roku. Alexa via Quick Remote App. Available for both iOS and Android, this app enables you to control some features of your Roku TV using Alexa. Google Home via Quick Remote App: This Android-only app enables you to control some features of your Roku TV using Google Home or Google Assistant. Thanks for letting us know! Tell us why! Putting up a TV antenna is one of the best steps you can take toward breaking your reliance on pay TV and saving hundreds of dollars a year. Most areas of the U.S. have access to between 50 and 100 TV stations broadcast over the air for free.As a bonus, they'll make your big-screen TV shine. Over-the-air TV signals are typically compressed less than cable or satellite broadcasts so pictures will appear either the same quality or better. All of the major broadcast networks now transmit in high-definition and in some areas test broadcasts for the new ATSC 3.0 standard are also underway. Those transmissions could eventually mean 4K broadcasting.Updated February 12, 2019 to add a video explaining how to determine which over-the-air TV channels you can tune in where you live (see above).So, here's how you go about choosing the right antenna for you. Determine which channels are available where you live Choose which channels you want to watch Check the rules on antenna installation where you live Figure out which type of antenna you need Select the antenna Which channels are available on an antenna?Your first step is figuring out which channels are available where you live and of those, which ones you want to watch.To do this, head over to TV Fool. It pairs the FCC's broadcast TV database with topographical maps to give you a pretty detailed estimation of which signals will reach your house and how strong they'll be.Enter your house address in the search box, hit enter, and you'll get something like this in return: Martyn Williams/IDG A screenshot of the TV Fool website showing television reception in San Francisco. That chart above looks pretty complicated, but it's really not. The strongest signals are at the top and weakest at the bottom. Keep this page open in a browser tab. Which channels do I want to watch?Your next step is to figure out what stations you want to watch. After all, there's no point wasting time trying to get weak stations if all your favorite shows are on strong ones.You can check a TV listing guide to see everything that's on the air in your local area and make a list of which stations you want to watch. You'll probably have to enter your zip code and be sure to choose "antenna" or "over the air" as your TV provider in the online program guide, so you don't get cable channels mixed in.Once you've made your list, examine the TV Fool results to find the channels you want to watch. Write down the number in the second column, the "real channel," the second-to-last column, the "true azimuth," and the color (green, yellow, or red). The colors will inform you if an indoor antenna will be sufficient, or if you'll need an attic or roof-mounted model to pull them in. Martyn Williams/IDG TV channels Wildcard! The national TV repackOver the next few years around 1,000 TV stations across the U.S. will be shifting their broadcast channel as part of a massive reorganization intended to free up space for mobile data networks. Phase one began in September 2018 and phase 10, the final step, is scheduled to end in July 2020.So, when you're picking out what stations you want to receive, do a quick check and see if they are moving channels so you can be sure of uninterrupted reception when they do. The website Rabbit Ears has a long list of all the stations in the U.S. and where they'll be after the repack process is complete.Find the stations you want to receive in that database (the drop down list of TV markets is the easiest way) and note the new channels too.Can I put up an antenna?In almost all cases, the answer is yes, you can put up an antenna. The FCC's over-the-air reception devices (OTARD) rule gives you the right to erect an antenna for the reception of over-the-air TV or satellite programming. It applies to both homeowners and renters, and it overrides the power of home-owners associations (HOAs) to block antenna deployments. The rule covers antennas required for an "acceptable quality signal" on your property, or if you rent, an area where you have exclusive use. The FCC website has full details. Martyn Williams/IDG The FCC's OTARD rule. Which antenna do I need?TV Fool ranks stations in order of predicted signal power, with the easiest to receive at the top. The green channels can probably be received with a simple indoor antenna, yellow ones will probably require a larger antenna in an attic space or on the roof, and the red ones will require a good roof-mounted antenna.It's important to remember than an indoor antenna is always going to be a compromise. You will always get better results with an outdoor antenna. Indoor antennas, like our current favorite the Winegard FlatWave Amped, are typically flat, so they're easy to set up, usually by hanging them in a window on the side of the house facing the transmitter. Some look different but the principle is the same: Install them in a favorable location. Indoor antennas are typically fine for all the strong local channels, but if you want channels that are weaker or further away, you might need to go larger and put an antenna in your attic space or on your roof. Winegard Elite 7550 There are several excellent options including our current top pick for attic installation, the Winegard Elite 7550, and for a roof-mount, the Antennas Direct DB8e. (See our full TV antennas roundup for more information about these models and how we tested.)If you install it in the attic, you'll probably get slightly less signal than if it was on the roof because it's an enclosed space, but it might be enough to get stable TV reception. If you hate the look of an outdoor antenna, then experiment. An attic-mounted antenna will also be easier to maintain. Antennas Direct DB8e The direction of the TV transmitter tower is also important. If you're using an indoor antenna, you'll want to put it in a window facing that direction. If you're using an outdoor antenna, it should be pointed in that direction. As signals get weaker, going from green to yellow to red, the direction becomes more important. If you want to tune in weaker stations from towers in different directions, you'll probably need a rotator. This motorized device will turn the antenna so that it's oriented to pull in those weaker signals. Knowing the real channel number will help you select an antenna. TV broadcasting in North America is spread across three frequency bands: VHF-Low (channels 2 through 6), VHF-High (channels 7 through 13), and UHF (channels 14 through 51). Because of the different frequencies in use, antennas are designed to cover one, two, or three bands. Not every antenna covers them all. Martyn Williams/IDG The Winegard Elite 7550 The real channel number helps you figure this out. After TV stations went digital, some shifted channels but kept announcing the channel number everyone knew. For example, channel 5 in San Francisco is actually broadcasting on channel 29. That's why the real channel is important in antenna selection.Most antennas, especially those for indoor and attic use, are designed for VHF-High and UHF reception. Some outdoor antennas for roof mounting only cover a single band. TechHive's antenna reviews note this. Antennas for VHF-Low stations are harder to come by, but those frequencies are generally used by smaller stations that may transmit at lower power.Be prepared to put up with a lot of marketing speak when checking out antennas. For the record, there is no such thing as an "HD" antenna or "digital" antenna—the format of the signals being received doesn't matter—and take those "miles" range claims in the product specifications with a grain of salt. No manufacturer can guarantee their antenna will pull in a signal from a given number of miles because too much depends on local topology, signal strength, interference, and other factors unique to your location.Having said that, those range claims are useful in evaluating antennas from the same manufacturer. It's a good bet that an antenna that claims 65 miles of range is generally better for long-distance reception than one from the same company that claims to deliver 30 miles of range. Martyn Williams/IDG Some of these claims mean nothing. Analyzing your listIn the example above, an indoor antenna will probably pull in all the green channels coming from the transmitter at 240 degrees, and the same antenna will also likely work for the third channel in the list, which comes from a different transmitter at 199 degrees, but has a strong signal.The last station on the list will require a bit more work. A larger antenna is probably required, and because it's more than 100 degrees from the others, you might need a second antenna or a rotator.But, before you spend too much money, try an antenna and see if you can pull in all six. If not, you'll need to decide if you want to buy extra equipment for just that station. Martyn Williams/IDG The Clearstream 4 Max antenna Do I need a signal amplifier or a rotator? CM-7777 Titan 2 Amplifier If you're unable to receive distant TV stations due to low signal levels, you should consider a signal amplifier. It's always best to collect as much signal as possible at the antenna, so don't skimp on a small one and try to make up for it with an amplifier.But if a large antenna still won't pull in the station without picture break-up, a signal amplifier might help. You also might need one if you have an excessively long run of cable, say from a distant spot on a piece of land to a house.TechHive recommends one of the models from Channel Master, such as the CM-7777 Titan 2. It mounts onto the antenna mast and is fed with power through the coaxial cable. Channel Master CM-9521HD A rotator will turn the TV antenna in any direction with the click of a remote. These are useful if you want to receive weaker stations from several different locations although it's worth testing out if a fixed antenna will get all your stations before investing in a rotator.Many antennas do a good job pulling in stations from different directions, especially if they are strong, local signals. If you do need a rotator, the Channel Master CM-9521HDis an excellent choice. Martyn Williams/IDG A TV antenna with rotator installed. What type of cable do I for a TV antenna?The connection from your antenna to your TV is every bit as important as the antenna itself. You need a high-quality coaxial cable ("coax" for short) for the job. Coax has a center wire that carries the signal and is surrounded by a plastic insulator. Then there's an outer braid that shields the center cable from interference, and an outer sheath to protect the cable from the elements.If you are ditching satellit for over-the-air TV, you can probably use the existing coaxial cable from the satellite dish, but if it doesn't work, be prepared to buy and run new coax. Make the cable a single run if possible because each time you connect shorter cables together, a little signal is lost. The most common type of cable for TV is called RG-6. Martyn Williams/IDG A piece of coaxial cable cut and ready for a connector to be attached. A final word of advicePredicting which antenna will work with certainty is almost impossible. The information garnered from sites like TV Fool will provide a strong indication of what should work, but there are other variables at work.In some areas, especially in cities or areas with lots of hills, signals can bounce off obstacles like buildings and cause interference, trees can grow leaves in the spring and block stations you got fine in the winter, and atmospheric conditions can alter the way signals reach your house.Moving an antenna just a little to one side or up and down a window can have a big effect on reception. If you're putting up an external antenna, one side of your roof might bring in nothing while the other side provides perfect reception.Be prepared to experiment. Note: When you purchase something after clicking links in our articles, we may earn a small commission. 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