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Technology Corner



Yikes! - I need a new TV!

My 12yr old plasma TV finally bit the dust! Despite decades working for CBC, I'm embarrassed to say, I was not too up to date on all the new TV technology available to consumers these days. For those of you in the same situation, here's some info I gathered while researching my purchase:

TV Types: Most TV sets sold now are flat panel—tube/ projection floor sets are long gone. Current choices are:

- **LED/LCD**—An array of dots lighted from behind.
- **Oled**—An array of dots each able to emit it's own light.
- **Plasma**—Electrically charged gasses that illuminate pixels.
- **Projection**—Uses high power lights or lasers to project images onto a white screen.

Resolution is the density your display is capable of rendering. Higher resolutions equal better clarity. Some TVs provide an "upscaling" feature to enhance lower resolution content. Common resolutions are as follows with 4k being the current new trend and Full HD being the most common before 4k).

- **Standard Def:** 480p (640x480).
- **HiDef (HD):** 1080p (1280x720).
- **FullHD:** 1080p (1980x1920).

- **UltraHD:** 4k (3840/4096x2160).

Oled TVs are always 4k, but other TV types may vary in resolution.

Led Backlighting Type: LED TVs which are the most popular and most moderately priced, can have several different backlighting types:

- **Frame Dimming:** Each content frame is lighted evenly (Good).
- **Edge Lit:** Lighted from screen edges. Different screen areas can be lighted at varying levels (Better).
- **Zoned Local Dimming:** Different Specific Zones of the screen can be lighted differently. (Best).

Screen Sizes: From 32" to 80"+. Choose size based on viewing distance (rule of thumb: best viewing distance is 1.5x to 2.5x diagonal screen size)

HDR, Dolby Vision?: These features enhance brightness, color, and contrast based on data

streamed along with the content which describes how the content should look to the viewer.

Smart TV Features: Many new TVs have smart features built in like Netflix and other streaming services so you don't need to have a separate streaming box.

Connections: Make sure at least some of the HDMI inputs on your new TV support 4k (HDCP 2.2 spec)

Stands / Mounts: Ensure your new TV supports "VESA" mounting standards which many stands / mounts also conform to.

Sound: The small speakers that are integrated into flat panel TVs are, at best, just OK. To get a full rich sound experience, you'll need to look into buying a separate sound bar.

Pricing: 200 bucks to "the sky's the limit" with Sony, Samsung, and LG being the most popular brands.

Who'd've thought that buying a TV would be so complicated!