



Shop Smart for That High Definition TV

If this year's Christmas shopping list includes a high definition television, some basic knowledge about HD and a little product research could go a long way in making sure you get the TV best suited to your needs.

The tiny dots of intersecting colors that make up the onscreen picture are known as pixels. Generally, the more pixels there are, the higher the resolution you get, and therefore, better picture quality. For example, standard broadcasts might give you a number in the range of 172,800 pixels of resolution, compared to a number more like 921,600 pixels, or close to 5 times the detail, for an HD picture. Resolution options on a TV range from 480i to 1080i and 1080p, with the higher numbers giving you the capability of more detail. However, at this time, most cable broadcasts aren't quite at those higher levels, but buying a 1080 TV will prepare you for the near future.

Another difference is the "aspect ratio" which is the comparison of width to height. Watching a non HD program on an HD TV may mean choosing between watching the show with black bars on either side of the picture or stretching the picture to the full screen and making things look shorter and wider.

In order for you to receive and watch TV in high definition you must subscribe to the service through your provider and you must have an HD television with the proper cables hooked to your receiver box. High definition television (HDTV) is available in many of our exchange locations. We have 21 HD stations and will be adding more. Also, keep in mind that not all shows broadcast by the station are in HD.

Now let's look at the options for that television. Bigger isn't always better so consider the size of your room and how far away you'll be sitting while you watch. One way to decide on the screen size is to use a 30 inch TV when you'll be sitting 5 feet away. Then add 3 inches of screen for every 1.5 feet more than 5 feet that you'll be sitting from the TV.

Next, consider the angle from where you will be watching the TV. Projection televisions, which use a projector and a series of mirrors, may give a more faded looking picture from the sharper angles of the room unless you choose a more expensive model. Some plasma TVs have glass panels over the screen that can create glare in strong daylight so shop carefully and look for an anti-glare surface.

Finally, check out how much space you actually have. Rear projection TVs can be up to about one and a half feet deep and often have the very large screens. You can get a larger picture, a lighter TV to carry, and one that is less expensive to repair, at a lower price. A less bulky option would be an LCD TV sitting on a stand or a plasma flat panel for wall mounting. The LCDs have a reputation for low maintenance, but generally aren't repaired when they do go bad. The flat display plasmas, on the other hand, are known for sharpness and crispness due to thousands of cells in a gas panel. Talk to a sales person about quality of the cells in various plasma brands and remember to carry them upright or risk damaging the gas panel.

When you've made your purchase and are ready to subscribe to HD, call our office to get pricing details and have one of our qualified technicians assist you with the hook-up. ❖

Keep Your Video and Internet Service Fresh!

When your computer gets slow or you start getting "weird" errors, restarting your computer will often solve the problem. The same goes for your internet or video.

By unplugging the power supply from your equipment, then plugging it back in ten seconds later, the equipment's information is "refreshed." Known as power cycling, this method is often effective for video that is blocking, choppy, or has disrupted sound. Power cycling can fix internet connection issues and slowed downloading. It's a first step in troubleshooting and the most effective way to get your services corrected.

If you are having trouble with your internet, power cycle the modem, then your personal router (only if you use a router), and then restart your computer. If you are having video problems, power cycle the modem and then each set top box located by your televisions.

We're here to help you, but if you try these steps first, you may save yourself a call for tech support. Please keep in mind that tech support is available 7 days a week. Most calls for internet help (1-888-869-8638) are answered by the Network Operations Center at Midwest TelNet. After hours, calls for video problems are answered by our on-call service technician. Just call 611 or 537-2461 for instructions on how to reach the on-call technician. If it's the middle of the night, we would appreciate your good judgment in deciding if the problem can wait until morning. However, if you have video problems over the weekend, the on-call technician may be able to help you.

FREE

Premium Channel Preview Weekend

Offered by Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative

Nov. 25th 5pm – Nov. 30th 9am



Tune into channels 514 thru 525 for your Thanksgiving Weekend entertainment. Then after the weekend, call our office (611) to subscribe and continue seeing what you like!

Starz is five channels of the hottest movies, biggest stars, and original series, giving you hundreds of movie and entertainment choices every month. Check out Starz, Starz Edge, Starz In Black, Starz Cinema, and Starz Kids & Family.

Encore is seven themed channels guaranteed to fit your mood. Check out, Encore, Encore Action, Encore Love, Encore Westerns, Encore Mystery, Encore Drama, and Encore Wam.



**An
Early
Holiday Gift
for Video
Customers**

Thank you for your business! At Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative we believe that our loyal video customers deserve special treatment! We're working hard every day to keep you satisfied with:

- Exceptional customer service.
- All your local network channels.
- Pay Per View Channels, and Premium Channels.
- Parental control features for your TV.
- The latest digital services and features, like our Digital Video Recorders and Caller ID on your TV.

As a valued customer, you deserve nothing but the best in Hollywood movies without going to the video store. So order a Pay-Per-View on us.** It's our way of saying THANKS for letting Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative be your single source communications company for Digital TV, High-Speed Internet and Voice services. If you don't already have all three, call our office to find out how you can save with a bundled option.

***This offer good for one (1) \$3.99 movie selected and viewed from December 1, 2009 through December 15, 2009. One \$3.99 movie rented during this time period per account will be given a credit of \$3.99 on the January 1, 2010 bill. Not redeemable for cash and is not valid with any other purchase.*

Holiday Hours

Happy Holidays from Richland-Grant Telephone! Our office will be closed Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving. We will also be closed Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for Christmas, and New Years Day, Friday, January 1, 2010. If you have a telephone or video emergency please call our trouble line 537-2463 or 310 locally. You may contact the Internet Help Desk at 1-888-869-8638.

Eagle Cave – Popular Destination for Scout Troops and Camping

Just a few short miles from Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative's office building in Blue River, WI is Wisconsin's largest cave. Eagle Cave also has the distinction of being Wisconsin's first "show" cave when it opened for public tours in 1938.

The cave was discovered in 1849 by two men, Peter Kinder, and an Irishman named Murphy, while they were tracking a bear. They had followed the bear tracks in dense snow from the river bottoms up the hill and into the woods which eventually led to the cave entrance. The entrance hall is rather large and was easy to access.

Several local businessmen formed a cave development corporation in the spring of 1937. They were granted permission by the State of Wisconsin to open the cave for the public. The development took only a year and it was inaugurated on May 29, 1938.

The cave has several large rooms and passageways, and some formations. It is called Wisconsin's largest onyx cave which tells a bit about the size and formations of other Wisconsin caves. The cave is still entered through the original entrance, but it is exited through a second access in a quarry.

The cave is a very popular destination for scout troops and camping activities. A special feature is sleeping in the cave. On weekends the entrance hall

accommodates up to 250 people. At 52 degrees Fahrenheit, the cave is not really cold, but the high humidity can be a problem for some. An air mattress or a cot is a really good idea if you are going to spend the night.

Eagle Cave is located off STH 60 on Eagle Cave Road and Cavern Lane near Blue River, WI. The hour-long tours are conducted from Memorial Day until Labor Day each year. More information about the cave is available at www.eaglecave.net. ❖

