

Indoor T.V. Antennas AAARGH!!

Jaycar carries a great range of “indoor” type T.V. antennas in both passive and active gain models. They are good quality. Many people select such products hoping that they will offer satisfactory T.V. reception without the cost and/or hassle of a full outdoor T.V. antenna system. Often people who are renting premises cannot install a full T.V. antenna system anyway because they are not allowed to drill holes etc.

The reality, however, is that indoor T.V. antennas rarely give totally satisfactory results.

The antenna element dimensions never correspond to broadcast frequencies for a start. Because you are inside, you may have no idea where the T.V. tower is anyway. Even if you knew where the tower was the antenna rarely has directional qualities. This makes the towers’ location fairly meaningless. Trying to make an indoor antenna according to the laws of physics misses the point.

Despite this, indoor T.V. antennas can work amazingly well! Just don’t get too scientific about it. They work best when you can throw a rock and hit the T.V. tower. As all the channels you will want to watch will not be in rock-throwing distance, some stations will work better than others. Wiggling the antenna around is really your only available technique.

Indoor T.V. antennas are made for flat dwellers in large Western or Asian cities with high building density. In other words, all the T.V. towers will not be far away.

If you live in a “spread out” city and cannot see a T.V. tower, it is highly likely that an indoor antenna will not solve your reception problems. There may simply be very little signal for you to pick up. Just imagine walking into a darkened room at night. Even with your eyes wide open you see virtually nothing until your eyes adjust to the conditions. At best you can see, say the white frame of a door. You certainly would not be able to read! You would not blame your eyes because you could not see but people frequently blame an indoor T.V. antenna in a similar situation for “not working”!

So when you buy an indoor antenna – from us or anyone else – don’t expect a lot. If you bring the product back and say “it doesn’t work”, we know that you are really blaming the messenger.

You may think that our words are a bit harsh but we respect both your time and your money too much to tell you what you need to hear, not what you want to hear.