

# Stop Overpaying for TV



In this day and age entertainment and streaming services are added expenses that were not around 10 years ago. Not only do we have to account for them in our budgets but managing them to keep costs down can at times seem like a full-time job. Below are some tips to help you manage your entertainment costs.

**Did you know:** “Company-imposed fees effectively tack a 24% surcharge on the price advertised, the consumer-advocacy group’s analysis of almost 800 cable bills in the U.S. concluded: While the average monthly cable bill totaled \$217, just under \$157 of that amount comprised the base package price.”<sup>(1)</sup>

## Best Practices: Cable

- Look at your bill and understand what channels come with certain packages and your usage of these packages. Eliminate premium channels.
- Cut out the DVR and excess boxes to eliminate extra expenses.
- During the current COVID-19 crisis sports leagues are suspended, eliminate premium sports channels and sports packages for now.
- Negotiate your current rate or look to other cable providers to compare rates. Once you are with a provider for a few years there is a tendency for rates to increase.
- Bundle Internet and cable to get most bang for your buck!
- Based on what you watch, think about “cutting the cord” and eliminating cable all together.

## Best Practices: Streaming Services

- Identify how often you are using certain streaming services over the next few weeks. Depending on consistent usage think about limiting services.
- Compile a list of content you are currently interested in watching and what service provider they are on. Watch all content on each streaming service then cancel and move onto the next service.

**Streaming options (content, cost and services)** - For a deep dive on the top streaming options. [Visit this article at Forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/03/17/a-budget-friendly-guide-to-streaming-services-while-coronavirus-keeps-your-family-isolated-at-home/#2dee6c7215d3)<sup>(2)</sup>

There are many different ways that you can improve your cash flows, continue to monitor what you are using and not using. This is the best way to keep monthly expenses low around cable and streaming services.

(1) <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/read-this-before-you-pay-your-next-cable-bill-2019-10-03>

(2) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/advisor/2020/03/17/a-budget-friendly-guide-to-streaming-services-while-coronavirus-keeps-your-family-isolated-at-home/#2dee6c7215d3>