

Antennas

Antennas are typically available in UHF Only or combined VHF/UHF. Most of the Pitkin County TV translator sites exclusively broadcast UHF signals, with the exception of Thomasville (and formerly Lower Red). We are hoping to change all remaining VHF signals to UHF in the future.

- “UHF Only” antennas are recommended to receive signals from Sunlight, Elephant, Crown, Williams, and Jack Rabbit.
- “UHF/VHF” antennas are currently required to receive signals from Thomasville (and formerly Lower Red) but will still work across all of the translator sites

Antennas can come in both indoor and outdoor varieties.

- Outdoor antennas perform better than indoor antennas.
- Outdoor UHF Only antennas are generally smaller than VHF/UHF antennas and come in a variety of shapes- most commonly a series of short metal rods or hoops (called *elements*) in front of a larger metal hoop or screen. They do not need to be roof-mounted; they can also be mounted to a pole or a flat side of your home facing the translator site.
- Outdoor VHF/UHF are typically larger and appear similar to the traditional roof-mounted antenna. There are varieties of outdoor VHF/UHF antennas that can be mounted to the side of your home, but due to their increased size they are typically mounted on a standoff pipe or mast, often on a rooftop.
- Indoor antennas also come in a variety of shapes, ranging from an antenna that sits on top of your TV (such as “rabbit ears”) to a thin, mouse pad-looking panel that sits in or sticks to your window (more common today). They do not perform as well as outdoor antennas, but are more compact and convenient, and do not require routing cable to the exterior of your home.

All antennas can be directly connected to the standard coax input on the back of your television. Since March 1st, 2007, all new TV’s sold in the US are required by federal regulation to have a built-in digital over the air TV receiver through their coax input- no additional equipment is required.

Additional antenna “amplifiers” or “boosters” do not increase the reception quality of digital signals at your antenna- they only reduce signal degradation over long cable distances between an antenna and receiver, and are usually not necessary or beneficial for home over-the-air TV viewers.