

KITCHEN STUDIO OF NAPLES

Design | Wellness | Cabinetry



OCTOBER 3, 2007 BY ANN PORTER

Is Your TV too Big for Your Room?



Most people do a lot of research before they buy a new TV. They read various magazines, search the Internet and view various models in person for picture quality. Unfortunately many people only measure the length of the available wall



and give little consideration to the seating distance.

The old rules stated the proper seating distance was 7 to 9 times the picture height from a 480p TV. This was so you were close enough to see the scan lines. When newer (720p) TVs came out they had pixels instead of scan lines. For the most part the same rules were applied; except that you can sit closer since the resolution is better.

The new debate is now about HD or 1080p TVs. Some experts say with a TV playing a perfect source (BluRay) a person can sit as close as 3 times the display height. I've seen another report that

says you can sit as close as 1.5 times the diagonal with a perfect source. That seems really close to me but I can understand a gamer using this calculation. (*Math: Screen Diagonal x 0.49 = Screen Height*)

At 5 times the picture height, the screen may appear a little smaller than you like, but your eyes won't be able to pick up as much noise on the screen. Unless you are sitting closer than 9.8 feet to the new 50" TV you've had your eyes on, the

difference between 720p and 1080p won't be apparent. Most people sit about 10 feet from the TV.

16:9 TV diagonal screen size	Min. viewing distance (in feet)	Max. viewing distance (in feet)
26	3.3	6.5
30	3.8	7.6
34	4.3	8.5
42	5.3	10.5
47	5.9	11.8
50	6.3	12.5
55	6.9	12.8
60	7.5	15
65	8.1	16.2

To figure out what size is best for your room, divide the seating distance by 5. This will give you the desired screen height. Divide the screen height by .49 will give you the screen diagonal. If you want a larger screen than your viewing distance is capable of, then you need to increase your resolution. A 65" TV for 10 feet needs to be 1080p to compensate for the closer distance. Here's a chart from CNET that requires no math. It's calculations are for HDTV.

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HDTV, SCREEN SIZE, TV VIEWING DISTANCE

0 Replies to “Is Your TV too Big for Your Room?”



Greg Biehl

OCTOBER 4, 2007 AT 11:58 AM

When designing a custom theater, the rule is that the primary viewing area is two times the width of the screen. Therefore, on a 54 x 96 screen the ideal seating position would be 16' from the front of the screen. This same rule applies to any of today's lcd's, plasma and rear projection dlps.



m. erb

OCTOBER 18, 2007 AT 8:27 AM

This was very helpful before purchasing a new TV.

Pingback: TVs: How Big Is Too Big?

TV Buyer

JANUARY 11, 2012 AT 7:45 AM

Thanks for this info. I was looking for the right size TV for my living room and it looks like I'll be getting a 42 inch TV to get the most out of it.

4/8/24, 11:40 AM

Is Your TV too Big for Your Room? - Kitchen Studio of Naples

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OCTOBER 4, 2014 AT 6:06 PM

Good information. Lucky me I came across your site by chance (stumbleupon).
I've saved it for later!