

Here are some handy tips that might help when wall mounting a TV...

At what height should I mount the screen?

Often TVs are mounted far too high; it's been a trend to place them above fireplaces, where the whole family have to sit looking upwards. This can feel unnatural, as our eyes tend to look downwards when we are facing ahead, which is one of the reasons why TVs on short stands have been so comfortable to watch over the years.

Factors that will have a bearing on suitable height are screen size, viewing distance and furniture. A big screen can work mounted higher, especially if you sit quite far back from it. Recliner chairs, as preferred by some in TV rooms, can position you in a more upwards looking position.

A good height to aim for is where your eye-line falls just below the centre of the screen when you are seated in your usual viewing position. In most cases this may mean that the TV will be at a height equivalent to being on a stand. Therefore you may want to reconsider whether you really want to wall mount the TV at all!

The above information is only for guidance, as ultimately you have to consider the final appearance of the room, what's practical and what feels comfortable.

I've got a plasterboard wall - can I hang my screen safely on it?

In most cases *yes*, if you use the right fixings and wall bracket. Most screens can be mounted directly to the plasterboard surface, but with the larger screens it maybe more important to fix to the wall studs or use alternative mounting practices to ensure a secure fitting. Plasma screens are typically considerably heavier than LCD/LED types. OLED screens will be lighter still when they arrive.

Should I fit a tilt bracket ?

The viewing angle on most modern TVs is so good that in most viewing environments tilting brackets are not really required. Therefore the installation can be much tidier. However you if your screen is overly high then a slight tilt may be needed.

What cables should go in the wall ?

This will depend a lot on your plans for the system, especially if integrating with other systems in the house. If you can somehow accommodate a wide channel for the future swap over of cables this could be very useful. Be sure to avoid bending and tying any leads sharply as this will impede performance.

In your wall you will undoubtedly need an HDMI cable of the very latest specification, plus one more as a back-up possibly. Install Category 5 or 6 cables too for future 'control' and maybe video distribution. You'll need Coax RF cable and allowance for the mains supply. Plan well and only install the best leads you can.

Will the heat of the fireplace affect the TV ?

It all depends! The owners' manual of your TV will give the operating temperature range for the set. You can check the temperature in your chosen spot quite easily, using a thermometer taped to the wall.

If you are burning coal or wood, you need to be certain that no smoke will reach the screen as smoke damage may well invalidate the warranty. However, many people do mount TVs above the fireplace with no apparent problems.

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