

Reception Tips

AM radio reception is typically subjected to interference from a variety of sources. Some of these include: Overhead power lines, electric motors, computers, microwave ovens, florescent lights, hair dryers and other home appliances. Night-time reception also introduces other "noises" into an AM signal. This occurs as a natural phenomenon in the earth's atmosphere at sunset, producing what is referred to as "Sky wave." Sky wave will cause some radio signals to travel great distances, bringing many stations to the local radio dial from far away places. Often these distant signals will *compete* for channels which are already occupied by your local stations, degrading AM reception. Other factors which can affect comfortable listening are certain weather conditions and soil conductivity. Soil that is rich in moisture & natural mineral content can serve as a suitable location for a low-power, Part-15 AM station; in terms of an acceptable range and signal quality - even at extremely low power levels. ***Please scroll down for more.***

- Be certain that your radio can receive frequencies above 1650 kHz. Some older model radios (pre-1990) may not be capable of receiving the "expanded AM band."
- Try listening on several different radios, and select the one with the best reception. Radio sensitivity varies greatly amongst manufacturers. One brand may offer superb reception, while another may not. Some radio manufactures cut cost by cutting corners, using inferior quality components.
- AM radio reception can often be improved by re-positioning your radio. In other words, move the radio around until reception improves. Sometimes, just moving the radio to another room or plugging it into a different wall outlet can make a world of difference. Telephone lines or utility lines at the street running into the home can act as giant antennas and sometimes they even carry radio signals. Try moving your radio around the phone line or near a wall outlet to see if reception improves.
- Always keep your receiver away from major appliances. Computers and other domestic devices, especially those with motors or fans, produce their own RF signals which can disrupt regular AM reception. However some devices such as microwave ovens can actually improve signal reception. Try locating your radio on or near your microwave and see if reception does indeed improve.
- Visit your local electronics dealer and purchase an external AM antenna or a newer and more sensitive AM radio. Radio Shack carries a wide variety of such products. Also try the GE Super Radio 3 or [C. Crane Radio](#).