

You've put time and research into choosing the right TV. You've pored over spec sheets and weighed the pros, cons and price—points to make an educated purchase. Now you're down to the finer-but just as important—touches. Mounting your new TV properly will ensure it delivers the performance and attributes you want for your viewing environment.

The Basics:

Wall Mount Styles

A room's environment will often dictate the range of motion a TV requires. So ask yourself, do you want to be able to tilt and/or swivel your TV once it has been mounted? Will you need to move your TV around a corner or cabinet? Review the various motion options to make sure your requirements are met.

Flat Panel

Simple and economical, a flat panel mount is a girder that affixes to your wall with two upright posts (or plates) that attach to the back of your flat screen TV. Super low profile mounts extend just 1 inch from the wall. It makes for a flush, unobtrusive appearance but remember, your TV will not pan, tilt or rotate.

Tilt & Swivel

If your viewing position is lower than your screen, consider a tilting mount that lets you angle your screen down towards the floor. This style of mount will also tilt your screen up toward the ceiling (great for rooms with a split-level floor or loft spaces with an open concept, two-floor design). It will usually extend 2 to 4 inches from the wall to accommodate the tilting mechanism, and provide movement of between 5 to 15 degrees. Many tilting mounts can also be swiveled to the left or right.

Full Motion

Full motion mounts have an articulated arm that extends out to allow panning from side to side. It's ideal for mounting on kitchen cabinets, or in a room where your main seating does not face directly towards the TV. Full motion TV mounts can also tilt and swivel. And some can be raised or lowered to suit your optimal viewing height.

VESA Certified Spec Alignment

Flat screen TVs come in many different weights and dimensions, so you'll need to choose a wall mount that falls within your TV's specific parameters. It's important to get one that matches your TV's screen size otherwise the range of motion may be limited. Most TVs and mounts follow the Video Electronics

Standards Association protocols for screen size, weight and hole pattern. Look for the “VESA mounting compliant” verification on both. Some mounts simply say “universal mounting pattern”, but get out the tape measure just to be safe. Here’s a handy chart to ensure compatibility.

Code	Screen Size (diagonal)	Max. Weight (lbs)	Hole Pattern
MIS-B	4 to 7.9	4.5	20 x 50 mm
MIS-C	8 to 11.9	10	35 x 75 mm
MIS-D	12 to 22.9	30	75 x 75 mm or 100 x 100 mm*
MIS-E	23 to 30.9	52	100 x 200 mm
MIS-F	31 to 90	225	200 mm increments

*Most MIS-D mounts have both sets of holes

What's New

While the function of all mounts is essentially the same, some are more elaborate and advanced than others. Below we’ve pointed out a couple of mounts that go beyond the call of the simple metal ones mentioned above.

Evo System

Geared towards videophiles or users that want to dedicate an entire room to creating the ultimate home theatre, the EVO System uses a series of decorative panels to create a smooth and seamless appearance that mounts your TV, front speakers and components in just about any arrangement you can think of. This isn’t the solution for everyone, but if you have enough available space, it’s a worthy consideration.

Installation

Installing a wall mount can be a tricky undertaking if you’re not sure what you’re doing. Flat screen TVs are generally lighter than old-style sets but it’s not like hanging a painting. So unless you know exactly what you’re doing and what challenges outside of the obvious you might encounter—or know someone who does—we strongly suggest you hire a professional to do it for you.