

Astound Broadband vs. Cox Communications Television plan comparison



Researched by

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Reviewed by

[See review team](#)

Updated 4/10/23

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Table of contents

Editor reviews

Value

Performance

Equipment and installation

Customer experience

User reviews



Staff rating 3.6 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Customer rating 4.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (1)

\$ Plans starting at \$19.99

📺 302+ channels

[Go to provider](#)

📞 1-844-716-2786

[See all reviews](#)



Staff rating 3.5 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Customer rating 4.2 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ (40)

\$ Plans starting at \$20.00

📺 250+ channels

[Go to provider](#)

📞 1-844-719-0028

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Staff rating
3.6 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Lacking premium perks, but fantastic first-year pricing

Made up of brands Wave, RCN, Grande, and enTouch, Astound offers internet-based entertainment that uses TiVo, Sling TV, and the Google Play store. Fabulous first-year pricing includes internet, but if you want premium perks or a provider you can grow old with, swipe left on this one.

What we like

- ✓ No-contract plans
- ✓ Low pricing
- ✓ Free installation promotions

What we dislike

- ✗ High long-term costs

Staff rating
3.5 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Good for bundling and premium channels, but not the best standalone value

Cox Communications is one of the most expensive cable TV providers on the market, especially when you consider all the hidden costs. But if you want sports and premium channels, have only one TV, and bundle with internet and other services, this provider could make sense for you.

What we like

- ✓ Large number of premium channels
- ✓ Tiered DVR storage and recording
- ✓ Searches streaming apps too

What we don't like

Popular Television alternatives

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Optimum



[Add to compare](#)

Spectrum



[Add to compare](#)

Mediacom



[Add to compare](#)

Sparklight



[Add to compare](#)

DISH



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DIRECTV



[Add to compare](#)

- ✗ Astound internet required
- ✗ Few premium channels included

[See full review →](#)

Savings tip: Astound Broadband often has [sign-up promotions](#) for first-time customers. Call 1-844-716-2786 to ask a rep about current deals and discounts.

[Check deals](#)

- ✗ Pricey plans and hidden costs
- ✗ Padded channel lineup
- ✗ No free DVR storage

[See full review →](#)

Savings tip: Cox often has [sign-up promotions](#) for first-time customers. Call 1-844-719-0028 to ask a rep about current deals and discounts.

[Check deals](#)



Content

3.5 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Astound's channel lineup is a Jack of all content, but master of none

Although Astound doesn't have the massive channel counts that some providers have, the channels it does have will scratch just about any itch. However, if you want Spanish-language channels or comprehensive sports coverage, it might not be the provider for you.

Local: 3.5/5

Astound has most of the channels you need to stay up-to-date on local events, including ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX, PBS, Comet, and The CW. But you won't find Cozi or any Spanish-language local channels.

Sports: 3/5

Unlike many competitors, Astound's lowest-tier plan (Basic) includes Fox Sports. Its mid-level plan (Signature) is pretty standard and includes sports like ESPN 1 and 2, Fox Sports, TNT, TBS, and USA. You'll also get NBA TV and Motor Trend, which are less common. But you'll miss out on the Golf Channel, and because Astound doesn't provide Spanish-language channels, its international soccer coverage isn't ideal.

Family and education: 3.5/5

Astound has solid family-friendly channels, especially ones with educational content like Animal Planet, History Channel, Discovery, and National Geographic. But you won't get Nat Geo Wild, the Science Channel, or the Smithsonian Channel. You'll get some decent cartoons with Disney, Nickelodeon, and Cartoon Network, but



Content

4.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Above-average channel lineup, especially for sports and news

Cox has some of the best channel lineups we've seen, with more to watch for just about everyone. Family-friendly entertainment is Cox's weakest link, but it's still better than a lot of competitors.

Local: 4/5

Cox has a great local lineup, including staples like NBC, CBS, ABC, FOX, PBS, and The CW. It also includes some great Spanish-language locals like Univision, Telemundo, Unimas, and Estrella. However, it's missing Ion, Cozi, and Comet.

Sports: 4.5/5

Cox cable TV includes a great sports lineup in its Preferred (mid-tier) and Ultimate (top tier) plans. ESPN, ESPN2, Fox Sports, and the Golf channel are all included in a Preferred plan, and the Ultimate plan adds NFL Network, NFL Red Zone, the Tennis Channel, and the elusive MLB channel. Most competitors typically offer these last three as expensive add-ons, so Cox is ahead of the game here.

Family and education: 3.5/5

Cox has some decent family entertainment, especially when it comes to educational content. You'll get Animal Planet, Discovery Channel, History, National Geographic, and the Science Channel, but you'll miss out on Nat Geo Wild and Smithsonian. The kids will love Cartoon Network, Disney, Nickelodeon, and Nick Jr., but the little ones won't get to enjoy Disney Junior.

News and politics: 4.5/5

Cox has excellent news coverage and

your littlest ones will miss out on Nick Jr. and Disney Junior.

News and politics: 3/5

Astound provides plenty of coverage for most people. You'll get lots of local news of course, along with national channels like CNN, Fox News, CNBC, MSNBC, HLN, and C-SPAN. You'll even get a bit of international perspective with BBC America. But you won't get Newsmax, The Weather Channel, or any Spanish-language news.

Entertainment and lifestyle: 3.5/5

Astound has a wide variety of entertainment channels. Exercise your funny bone with both Comedy Central and Laff, or watch a serious cowboy movie on INSP. Learn some home improvement skills with HGTV and TLC, or leave home behind while watching the Travel Channel. Create culinary masterpieces with the Food Network and Cooking channels, or fill up on celebrity gossip with E!. You'll also get all three Hallmark channels, Bravo, Paramount, and IFC.

Local news, sports, and entertainment channels vary based on your location. Check out

[Astound Broadband channel offerings](#) in your area.

[View plans](#)

Cox has excellent news coverage and politics content. Not only do you get the local news shows, you get most of the big national news channels too. You get C-SPAN, CNBC, MSNBC, CNN, Fox News, Newsmax, and The Weather Channel. Our biggest gripe is that you'll miss out on the international perspective of BBC America.

Entertainment and lifestyle: 4/5

Cox has some decent entertainment options, including Comedy Central, Bravo, CMT, AMC, FX and FXX, two Hallmarks, and Sundance. It's missing some lifestyle channels though, like HGTV and The Cooking Channel, but it has the Food Network and TLC. But what makes Cox stand out is how many premium channels it includes in its top-tier plan. If you spring for the Ultimate plan, you'll get ten HBO, eleven Cinemax, five SHOWTIME, and nine STARZ channels—at no extra charge.

Local news, sports, and entertainment channels vary based on your location.

Check out [Cox channel offerings](#) in your area.

[View plans](#)



Value

3.5 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Low intro pricing and base plan costs can be deceiving

Astound's base plans are pretty standard compared to competitors, and initial costs are low. However, if you start adding custom channels, costs quickly add up. Plus, after a year-long honeymoon with great introductory rates, Astound turns up the heat and quickly drains your bank account.

Although Astound leans on Sling TV to deliver its live TV channels, it offers a better experience and more channels than just Sling alone.

Astound sells its TV and internet plans together. First, you'll pick your internet plan, then you can add a TV plan. Whichever TV plan you choose, you'll stream all your shows over your [Astound internet](#) connection, so getting the right internet plan is critical. If you're a small household that doesn't



Value

3.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Great channels, but lineups are inflated by filler channels

Although it looks like Cox has a ton of channels, its lineup (which varies by plan and location) is padded with up to 50 music channels. (1) Other than that, Cox delivers a great channel lineup, especially in its top-tier plan. However, it'll cost you more than other companies.

You'll get the most bang for your buck (and some sweet premium channels) with the Ultimate plan, but a Premium plan has plenty of channels for most people and the option to add inexpensive premium channels à la carte, which range from \$5–\$15 per. We don't generally recommend the Starter plan because you can get most of its channels for free with an HD antenna, though that signal is less reliable than what Cox provides.

you're a small household that doesn't stream a ton of HD content, a 110 Mbps internet plan could be plenty. But if you want to take full advantage of Astound's 4k streaming capabilities, we recommend at least the 400 Mbps plan.

Get the best value by speaking directly with a sales rep at 1-844-716-2786 or check your address at

[Astound Broadband's website](#).

Check address

reliable than what Cox provides.

Cox Communications has two types of plans. Cox TV includes live TV and on-demand TV. Cox Contour adds the ability to connect streaming apps like Netflix and Amazon Prime to your TV and search their content using a remote. All plans come with a one- or two-year contract, after which you'll be on month-to-month pricing, which is around \$15/month more.

Get the best value by speaking directly with a sales rep at 1-844-719-0028 or check your address at [Cox's website](#).

Check address



Equipment and features

3.5 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TiVo, Sling, and Android apps are your entertainment trifecta

Astound has put together a great list of equipment and features that allow you to easily find and watch or record your shows with relative ease. That said, we'd love to see more DVR storage included in Astound plans.

Ability to watch: Great

Getting your first TV set up with a Stream 4k box is free, and additional boxes cost just a few dollars per month. You'll also need an Astound Wi-Fi router, but you'll need that for your Astound internet service anyway. Astound uses the Sling app to deliver your streaming experience. The interface can be confusing at first, but once you get used to it, it's a decent experience.

Ability to record: Good

If you ever want to leave your couch (like, say, to run out and get more popcorn), you can use the Astound TV+ app to watch shows in line at the quickie mart, tap into a respectable 125 included hours of Cloud DVR storage, or schedule a future recording. Register up to 12 devices, and watch on up to five at a time.

Ability to find: Great

Astound leans on [TiVo's Stream 4k device](#) to combine the capabilities of a DVR, live TV (via Sling), and streaming services (via Android apps). If that sounds like a lot of stuff to try to sort through while your popcorn gets cold, you can use the voice button on the remote to tell your TiVo what you're looking for—or ask it



Equipment and features

4.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The app could save you money, but DVR will cost you

When it comes to equipment and features, Cox is ahead of the pack. From a great app to exceptional DVR features to a search remote that simultaneously searches streaming apps and cable TV, using Cox is a top-notch experience.

Ability to watch: Great

Cox offers some solid features that make for a great entertainment experience. Cox TV uses cable infrastructure to keep you reliably binging your favorite shows. Your first Contour box is free, and every additional one is \$8.50/month, which is cheaper than average. Plus, it has the Cox Contour app, so if you have smart TVs and don't need DVR on all of them, you don't need additional boxes. On the down side, the Cox Contour App has low ratings for both [iOS](#) and [Android](#), so you might want to opt for more Contour boxes anyway.

Ability to record: Excellent

The Cox DVR service uses cloud storage so you can access recorded shows anywhere with the Cox Contour app. The Contour app also lets you download on-demand content to watch offline from anywhere.

How much storage you get (50–1,000 HD hours) and how many shows you can record at a time (1 to a whopping 24!) depends on which DVR package you buy. Or you can skip DVR altogether to avoid the additional cost.

Ability to find: Great

... ..

to give you a few curated options.

Features and equipment may vary based on package. Visit [Astound Broadband's website](#) or call 1-844-716-2786 for more information.

While at home with your I V, you'll use a voice remote to sort through your shows—even the ones on streaming apps like Netflix and Hulu. You don't have to remember which app your show is on to find it, which we loved. It made our entire watching experience—not just our live TV experience—a delight.

Features and equipment may vary based on package. Visit [Cox's website](#) or call 1-844-719-0028 for more information.



Customer experience
4.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

An overall great experience dampened by surprising price hikes

Most customers report an overall positive experience, but Astound's large price hikes are understandably unpopular. The good news is, you won't have to sign a contract, so if increasing prices are getting you down, you can jump ship anytime.

Astound has a free self-setup option and often runs promotions for free professional installation (otherwise around \$80). If your house already has working coax outlets, you'll probably get off scot-free with no installation costs.

Visit [Astound Broadband's website](#) or call 1-844-716-2786 for more information on contracts and money-back guarantees.

[Go to provider](#)



Customer experience
3.0 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Solid service and installation, but could use more transparency

Most customers report that Cox has solid customer service, and that's been our experience too. Cox also has some good self-help content on its website. We liked having the option to save money by signing a contract or skip the commitment altogether. However, Cox could work on its transparency. It has some hidden fees that you can't see until after you supply personal information. We'd love the ability to build a cart and see what our bill will be before sharing that.

Installation is generally fast and priced about average. If your house is already wired with cable jacks for all your TVs, self-install is a free, easy option. Professional installation varies by location but will run you around \$75, which is pretty inexpensive. [Learn how to choose between self installation or professional installation](#)

Visit [Cox's website](#) or call 1-844-719-0028 for more information on contracts and money-back guarantees.

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Astound Broadband

Cox Communications

4.0 ★★★★★ (1)



T

Tyler from Wesley Chapel , FL
Astound Broadband Customer for 1+ years

★★★★★

Reviewed on: 6/17/2022

I like the value of what I get it I gives me the stuff that I need at the price that I want are you able to watch sports the news and most of the TV shows that I want the only way that It could improve is making it more affordable

4.2 ★★★★★ (40)



L

Lynn from Olmsted Twp, OH
Cox Communications Customer for 8+ years

★★★★★

Reviewed on: 7/26/2022

I normally have no problems with the service, it is just they continue to raise the price and nothing gets any better in the TV or the internet.

C

Chris from Ocala, FL
Cox Communications Customer for 8+ years

★★★★★

Reviewed on: 7/20/2022

I'm very happy with cox The only thing they could do better is to add more channels

R

Richard from Salina, KS
Cox Communications Customer for 8+ years

★★★★★

Reviewed on: 7/4/2022

The service has been pretty decent. The picture and audio quality is good. The service has been surprisingly reliable. It's rare when we have an outage. If there is an outage it doesn't take long for a repair person to come out, and fix the problem. I would like to see a better quality remote control system for their wall-mounted digital cable boxes. It's pretty east get out of range where the remote doesn't work. Also, I'd like a way to record programs, and be able to play the recordings on other devices. It makes a person wish that analog TV was still available.

F

Francis from Wethersfield, CT
Cox Communications Customer for 8+ years

★★★★★

Reviewed on: 6/22/2022

I like that they broadcast all channels

in 1080 resolution and lower the bill



PROVIDERS NEAR YOU

See all options in your area
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Enter your ZIP code

Check availability

Endnotes and sources

1. "Channel Lineups," Astound Broadband. Accessed 12 October 2022.
As an Amazon Associate, Switchful.com may earn commissions from qualifying purchases.

Endnotes and sources

1. "Channel Lineup," Cox Communications. Accessed 3 April 2023.



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