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NEWSLETTER

Connecting the communities we serve with excellence, integrity, innovation, and a servant's heart.

Stream on a Budget: Find the Best Solution for your Household

Like most, you're probably searching for ways to save in an era of higher costs—and one area you may be interested in is streaming entertainment. Given the large number of streaming choices, and recent price increases for many services, we understand wanting to stream on a budget.

Pineland's MyBundle solution can help you put together a package of streaming apps and channels you'll actually use, while cutting out the apps you're least likely to watch. You'll be able to stream the content you and your family want, while saving money. Explore Pineland's My Bundle solution at <https://mybundle.tv/pineland/tv> for a customized search of streaming services.

We've also put together an overview of some of the lowest cost plans available from major streaming providers.

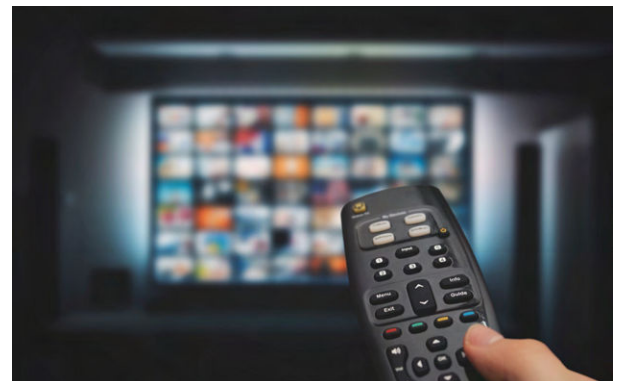
Netflix Plans

Netflix offers three main plans from which to choose. Its least expensive plan remains "Standard with ads" which costs \$6.99 per month. Viewers will experience ads and are limited to streams on two devices simultaneously, but it is the most budget-friendly option Netflix provides.

The next level up is Netflix's first ad-free plan, the "Standard" plan, which is \$15.49 per month. However, the Standard plan also limits streams to just two at a time, which may be rather limiting to some families. The highest plan, "Premium," costs \$22.99, is ad-free, and permits four simultaneous streams. Its picture quality is also better than the other plans, as it provides Ultra HD.

Hulu, Disney+, and ESPN+ Price Plans

Hulu and its streaming partners Disney+ and ESPN+ offer the biggest variety of streaming packages. The simplest plan for on-demand Hulu streaming is its original Hulu app plan costing \$7.99 per month (or \$79.99 per year for a savings of about \$16), but you will



see ads during the programs you watch. For \$17.99 per month, you can watch Hulu's on-demand content ad-free. Neither of these options include live streaming television.

To get live TV through Hulu, you must select one of the four Hulu + Live TV plans listed below:

- Live TV Only (\$75.99 per month, without Hulu's on-demand content library or access Disney+ or ESPN+ content);
- Hulu (With Ads) + Live TV, Disney+ (With Ads) and ESPN+ (With Ads) (\$76.99 per month);
- Hulu (With Ads) + Live TV, Disney+ (No Ads) and ESPN+ (With Ads) (\$81.99 per month); and
- Hulu (No Ads) + Live TV, Disney+ (No Ads) and ESPN+ (With Ads) (\$89.99 per month).

Max (Formerly HBO Max)

Max also offers tiered plans that can save you money. Each of Max's plans have different features and limitations, and the cheapest option includes ads. Currently, Max offers three plans at three price points:

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“Max With Ads” (\$9.99 per month or \$99.99 annually for a 16% savings), “Max Ad-Free” (\$15.99 per month or \$149.99 each year with over 20% savings), and “Max Ultimate Ad-Free” (\$19.99 per month or \$199.99 annually valued at a 16% savings).

As the name suggests, “Max With Ads” will serve subscribers with ads. It also limits subscribers to two simultaneous streams, which could be an issue for some families. “Max Ad-Free” contains no ads, but also limits its simultaneous streams to two at a time.

Finally, “Max Ultimate Ad-Free,” the most expensive option, doesn’t have ads. It allows four simultaneous streams, which may make this plan the best option for larger households. “Max Ultimate Ad-Free” also offers the best picture and audio quality on many titles, with 4K UHD with Dolby Atmos on many movies and series.

Peacock

Peacock, NBC’s streaming service, offers two plans for its subscribers. Its first option, “Peacock Premium,” is more budget-conscious (\$5.99 monthly), but contains ads. An ad-free plan is available, “Premium Plus,” which will cost you more at \$11.99 per month. Some families may find added value in Peacock’s Premium Plus plan, as it lets you download many titles to enjoy later.

Additionally, Peacock offers significant savings if you pay in advance on a yearly basis (instead of monthly). You can get twelve months for the price of ten choosing this payment option. For the Premium plan, paying annually will cost you \$59.99 per year, while Premium Plus clocks in at \$119.99.

Paramount+ Essential and Showtime Plans

CBS’s streaming platform Paramount+ offers a few pricing plans you’ll want to consider. Its primary package, “Paramount+ Essential”, is available at a monthly rate of \$5.99. You can pay upfront annually at \$59.99 and save yourself about \$12.

Additionally, CBS has teamed up with Showtime for a streaming offer that fans of Showtime’s extensive programming will enjoy. You can select “Paramount+ with SHOWTIME” for \$11.99 per month. With this plan, you can stream Showtime’s movies, dramas, and documentaries in addition to Paramount+’s content. For even greater savings, pay \$119.99 per year on an annual basis and save \$24.

YouTubeTV

YouTubeTV keeps it simple, offering just two plans - a Base Plan and a Spanish Plan. Its Base Plan, which costs \$72.99 per month, includes 100+ live channels, and unlimited DVR space. Subscribers can create up to six household accounts, and the platform allows three simultaneous streams.

The provider’s Spanish Plan is priced at \$34.99 a month, and includes only Spanish channels. 30+ Spanish networks are available, and users have access to the same DVR, account creation, and streaming capabilities.

Why Pineland’s Fiber Internet Is More Reliable in All Weather

Many people know that fiber internet is the fastest available, transferring data at near-light speed. But did you know fiber can be more reliable than other kinds of internet, especially in severe weather? Legacy internet connections (such as cable, DSL, satellite, and wireless) cannot compete with fiber’s speeds or reliability. Because of their structural differences, and the way some are deployed and installed, these older technologies are more susceptible to outages due to inclement weather. Read on to learn more about fiber’s reliability.

Pineland’s Fiber Lines Are Buried

Unlike satellite or wireless 5G, Pineland’s fiber-optic cables are buried beneath the ground. This means your fiber connection is hidden away from wind, rain, ice, and other weather impacts. Fallen trees, which are the bane of exposed powerlines and wires, can’t



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touch a buried fiber cable. Just think of how gusty winds and thunderstorms can bring down limbs (or entire trees) over powerlines, disrupting services to thousands of customers at a time.

Buried fiber is also far less prone to service disruptions from dramatic fluctuations in cold or hot weather because the ground helps insulate the fiber cables from extreme temperatures.

Fiber Is Not Affected by Electromagnetic Interference

A significant advantage of fiber, is the composition of the materials it uses, which makes it less susceptible to electromagnetic interference.

Electromagnetic interference (often called EMI) occurs when an outside source, anything from a household appliance to nearby construction work, interrupts the normal flow and transmission of electrical signals.

Bad weather can cause EMI, especially when lightning strikes wreak havoc on electrical systems. For internet users, EMI can lead to service disruptions, slowdowns, distortions, or crashes. Bad weather is the worst time for downtime! No one wants to be stuck at home without the connection they need to check in on loved ones, get weather reports, or keep the kids entertained.

Unlike fiber, cable internet uses coaxial cable, which is comprised of a metal-based (copper) wire. Copper-based coaxial cable can be easily influenced by nearby electromagnetic energy—including some common sources that are probably in your home. These include household items like microwave ovens, but also nearby power lines.

Rather than relying on copper wires, fiber optic cables consist of many tiny hairs of thin glass, which transmit the signal. Because they are composed of glass (rather than metal), fiber isn't affected by EMI from appliances, power lines, or even the weather like coaxial cable internet.

Light Is Flexible!

Most people think of downed powerlines and extreme temperatures as the primary causes of weather-based internet problems. But inclement weather can sometimes cause cable lines to bend (i.e., from extreme precipitation or flooding). That crimping harms the copper wiring within and can slow or even stop the flow of internet signal to your home.

Fiber optic lines and their many strands of fine glass "hairs" can more easily bend without being crimped or damaged. The glass materials are so flexible that with fiber, the signal "goes with the flow". Unless the fiber connection is physically cut, you shouldn't lose internet signal due to any unforeseen bending of your lines from harsh weather.

From its ground installation, to the quality of its materials and components, Pineland's fiber-optic connection can be the most reliable connection type in all weather conditions. If you have active power during inclement weather, your services are more likely to maintain their connection.



pineland proud quarterly stats

Here's a look at what we've been up to during the fourth quarter of 2023. | [Oct.](#), [Nov.](#), [Dec.](#) |

New Fiber Drops Buried **259**

Our services are delivered by a reliable fiber network connected to each individual home or business. When services are requested, we must bury a fiber drop to that location if there is not already one in place.

Locates Conducted **2,283**

The rule to "Call before you dig" applies to homes and businesses. When 811 is notified that someone will be digging, they let us know so we can mark the location of our fiber cables to avoid damage.

Service Orders Completed **1,038**

Orders Completed by Truck Roll: 686

Some service orders can be handled by phone, while others require a technician visit. This is the total number of orders which required us to visit a home or business.

Troubles Received **1,971**

"Troubles" are calls received where a customer is reporting a problem with their service. Some troubles can be solved over the phone, while others require a truck roll.

Solved over the phone: 378

Truck Roll Required: 1,593

No Trouble Found: 169

Customer Equipment: 64

Customer Error: 44

Trouble Types:

Television: 21% Internet: 61%

Phone: 18%

Calls Answered **6,196**

|average per month|

Speed of answer: 19 seconds

These calls were answered by our Customer Service and Service Department during normal operating hours and do not include after hours assistance.

*Reminder: Service calls from intentional damage, customer equipment, or fault of customer will incur a service call fee: \$50 regular business hours, \$75 after-hours

fiber focus TRIVIA

Mail or bring your completed answers to Pineland Telephone for your chance to win a **\$5 credit** on your bill. Fifteen total customers will win!

MAIL TO: Pineland Telephone, Fiber Focus Trivia, PO Box 678, Metter, GA 30439

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

EMAIL: _____

1. What is the name of Pineland's solution that helps you find streaming services?

2. How many of Pineland's Trouble calls were due to customer equipment?

3. Name one type of legacy internet connection.

4. Name one major streaming provider.

5. List one reason why fiber connections are more reliable in bad weather.

Not eligible for credit two editions in a row. By providing your email address, you will be signed up to receive monthly email communciations.



CONGRATULATIONS
to our previous winners

Teddy Bailey	Yvonne Jones
Linda Dekle	Faye Lamb
Roger Douglas	Nancy Mincey
Kenny Foskey	Carmine Palumbo
Cynthia Green	Dawn Phillips
George Harrison	June Sikes
Patsy Johnson	Frederick Smith
Sherry Woodcock	



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