

The Price Is Right (Free!) for These Streaming Services

If you're looking for some additional online video entertainment in your spare time, but don't want to break the bank, you may want to look into these platforms.

Tubi TV – There's no limit on how much you want to watch, but you will need to sit through the occasional commercial break, much like broadcast TV. The range of programming includes movies ("Minority Report," "Rain Man," and some straight-to-video films), reality TV ("American Pickers"), classic TV shows ("Dick Van Dyke Show," "The Honeymooners"), and even music documentaries (from Elvis to Guns N' Roses).



Vudu – Known mainly as a movie rental service, it has over 3,000 movies and 250 TV shows that are free with ads, but you'll need to create an account to view. There's a decent amount of stuff for kids ("Happy Feet," "Surf's Up") and kids' classics ("The Karate Kid," "Hook"). If you're into horror, especially *bad* horror movies, this is your one-stop shop. Watch at your own risk—and keep the lights on.

IMDb TV – This has more than 375 titles, including movies you'll recognize ("Legally Blonde," "Look Who's Talking Now," plus many with stars you know in movies you've never heard of. There's also a small TV library with some decent titles ("The Rockford Files," "21 Jump Street," "The A Team").

Sony Crackle – This one has more than 350 titles. While there's not much for kids to watch, there are some classics ("Last Picture Show," "Taxi Driver") for adults. It also has classics like "Bewitched" (1960s), "Sanford & Son" (1970s), "What's Happening Now" (1980s), and "Roseanne" (1990s).

Pluto TV - This is a robust smorgasbord of programming with 250 channels and thousands of movies. A small sampling: Six seasons of "Third Rock from the Sun," plus cable staples like Comedy Central, Nickelodeon, and MTV. Among the movies, its selection runs the gamut from "Harriet the Spy" to "Raging Bull." It also has plenty of sports with NFL and PGA highlights from seasons past.

Hoopla - Thousands of quality movies and TV shows, from romantic comedies ("13 Going on 30") to musicals ("Chicago") to thrillers ("Day of the Jackal") to kids ("Madeleine: Lost in Paris"). There's one hitch: you need to have a current library card from a participating public library to sign in. You're limited to a monthly rental total (usually around 15) – so be selective. You may have the best luck if you log in early in the morning.

Kanopy - Similar to Hoopla, it partners with local library systems to provide free access to over 4,000 movies. Its focus is on foreign films, independent cinema, and documentaries. You'll find some great, little-known but widely acclaimed movies ("Lady Bird," "Hours"). There's a very good selection of kids programming as well, from Sesame Street to Curious George.

YouTube TV - About 100 titles that are free (with ads), mixed in with others you can rent or buy. Among the free titles are "All Dogs Go to Heaven," "War Games," "Ernest Goes to School."

Notes:

- *As a reminder, the NJM network and NJM-issued devices are to be used for business purposes only. Please use personal devices while logged off of the NJM network to stream videos and for other entertainment purposes.*
- *Before using a streaming service, be sure it is supported by whatever platform or device you'll be using. Also, be sure to have active computer virus protection for devices that are susceptible. If you use an ad blocker program, some services may request you to disable it.*