

From the CableOrganizer How to choose between LCD and plasma TVs

When it comes to choosing between plasma and LCD, it's important to shop in the mind-set that one high-def TV is not necessarily better than another — rather, it's a question of which one is right for you. That said, it can be a tough call to make when all that meets the eye are sleek screens and vibrant pictures. Are plasmas and LCDs really that different? The answer is yes, and in order to make your purchase a well-informed one, consider this feature summary for both screen types:

■ **LCD:** Known longhand as liquid crystal display, LCD is the same technology used in your flat-screen computer monitor — just on a larger scale. Light streams through liquid-crystal-filled cells to form images that have good color saturation levels and can be easily viewed even in rooms with high levels of ambient light.

■ **Plasma:** Plasma display technology uses charged neon and xenon-filled gas cells to form bright, color-saturated images with excellent black levels. They are great for home theater buffs who want to get the most out of their TV or movie-viewing experience.

■ **Screen Resolutions, the difference between 720p, 1080i and 1080p:**

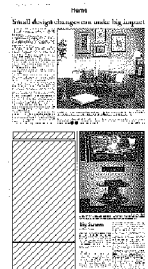
Even if you know what size HD screen you're looking for and you've narrowed your choice down to plasma or LCD, the decision process isn't over yet as there is still-screen resolution to consider. Resolution describes the sharpness and clarity of a TV's picture, and while you're shopping for a high-definition television, you'll come across three different formats: 720p, 1080i and 1080p.

■ **720p:** Even though 720p is the lowest resolution within the HDTV standard, it delivers impressive pictures on screens that are less than 40 inches in size. The "p" stands for progressive scan, a format that's ideal for viewing fast-action movies, sporting events and video games.

■ **1080i:** It may not have as fast a frame rate, but since 1080i offers more lines and pixels than 720p, it's a terrific option for people who enjoy watching slower-moving programming with lots of closeups — think documentaries, non-action movies and prime-time dramas.

■ **1080p:** Otherwise known as "True HD," 1080p combines a rapid frame rate with high pixel density for the best high-definition pictures available. Even though 1080p is the hottest thing going in HD resolutions, it's important for you to keep in mind that with the exception of Blu-ray, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and a relatively small amount of satellite TV programming, there's not much true 1080p content out there. Although they're backward-compatible with the lower resolutions, 1080p screens can't live up to their full potential unless they're displaying true high-definition content.

■ **Wire management — how to hide unsightly HDTV cables:** While most people purchase HDTVs to enhance their viewing experiences, it can't be denied that a sleek, flat-screen display also has a way of improving the overall appearance of a room. To ensure that your high-def screen looks as



impressive as it possibly can, don't forget to complement it with some well-thought-out wire clutter management. Managing HDTV cables not only hides them from view, but also prevents them from becoming tangled and disorganized.

One advisable HDTV cable manager is the Wiring Solution — a channel that installs vertically below wall-mounted screens to cover equipment-to-TV cable runs and can be easily painted to disappear into your décor. We also highly recommend surface raceway — a type of latching channel that can be used in just about any configuration to route cables short distances, or even around an entire room. Like the Wiring Solution, raceway is easily paintable, and thanks to pre-installed self-adhesive backing, it has the added advantage of tool and screw-free installation.

• SOURCE: CableOrganizer.com