



Improving reception of Redeemer Radio on FM:

Enemies in your home or office are out to ruin your radio reception!

The following common household items all generate electrical noise that can hurt your radio reception. Individually, they don't do a whole lot... but most homes have many of these items, often all turned on and running at once, and it adds up to causing a lot of annoying signal noise in your radio.

Turning OFF as many of these items as possible will lead to better reception of all radio stations in general and potentially our FM station in particular.

- CD players and/or recorders**
- VCRs**
- DVD players and/or recorders**
- Computers and monitor screens**
- Cable TV boxes**
- Satellite TV boxes**
- Video game systems**
- Microwave ovens (honest)**
- Halogen lights, especially those tall floor lamps with dimmer controls.**
- Light dimmer switches in general...including dimmers built into your walls.**

Folks say FM radio doesn't sound as good as it used to... well, very few of these items were common 20+ years ago, now most homes have multiple examples of each, all out to ruin the sound of FM (and AM) Radio! If turning these items OFF is not practical, consider moving your radio away from as many of these noise-generating electronics as you can.

Location

Concrete, brick and steel are enemies of radio signal. Naturally, if you have a radio in the center of a building made from these materials, radio reception will suffer.

In general, get your radio near a window. ANY window! Then, work on the antenna....

Antennas matter, but almost nobody pays attention to them.

Most of the better FM radios and home stereos have some provision for an external antenna hook-up, and/or a built-in antenna rod or wire. The rod or wire may not be the prettiest thing, but, moving them around and/or stretching them out to their fullest often gives significant reception improvement.

FM radio signals travel in a wave about 6 feet wide. Extending the antenna rod or wire out fully will give better results. If that rod or wire is at least 3 feet long, the better!



Contrary to popular belief, placing your radio's rod-type antenna vertically usually does NOT improve FM reception. FM signals mostly travel horizontally, so, positioning the antenna rod or wire horizontally or diagonally will usually give better results than vertically.

Here are some economical FM antennas available at electronic stores or online:

Option 1 -Dipole FM Antenna

This one isn't pretty but can easily hide tacked-up behind an entertainment center, sofa, wardrobe cabinet, etc, and make a big difference on stereos or radios that has screw or spring-type antenna jacks on the back. It's just a perfectly cut & trimmed antenna wire, tuned just for FM. Model 42-2385 at Radio Shack. <http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=2062691>

Option 2 - Terk Tower Indoor Amplified AM/FM Antenna

This one is neutrally attractive and works reasonably well with a little experimentation. The end of the hook-up wire has a "cable TV" connector on the end. You'll need to buy a 75-to-300 ohm adapter for use on most radios.

http://www.radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=28915006&retainProdsInSession=1&zn t_campaign=Category_CMS&znt_source=CAT&znt_medium=RSCOM&znt_content=CT2032189

Who makes a good radio these days?

Sadly, the quality of radios has dropped significantly in the last decade. For a home stereo system, Yamaha, Denon, and Onkyo, and Pioneer components still pay some attention to their tuner sections, but they can be hit-or-miss. The RCA (RP7887) Super Radio 3 from Amazon is one suggestion:

http://www.amazon.com/RCA-RP7887-Super-Radio-3/dp/B00120WRSU/ref=sr_1_1?s=electronics&ie=UTF8&qid=1408022134&sr=1-1&keywords=rca+super+radio

And Best Buy has a nice Insignia brand radio (HD Radio Tabletop Radio) that includes an external antenna:

<http://www.bestbuy.com/site/insignia-hd-radio-tabletop-radio/4635744.p?id=1218505477073&skuld=4635744&st=insignia%20radio&cp=1&lp=3>

If all else fails, listen on-line!

Do you work in an area that is impervious to all forms of radio signals? Don't despair, many stations including ours stream broadcasts on the internet... PC or Mac, even your Smartphone listen in at RedeemerRadio.com, or use the TUNE IN APP.