# TV weight: Fact and fiction

How much do TVs weigh? Surprisingly, it's a concern (for some).

by **Geoffrey Morrison** | June 17, 2013 8:55 AM PDT



(Credit: Geoffrey Morrison)

Recently we took a poll where we asked <u>"What's stopping you from getting a plasma?" [http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199 7-57579336-221/poll-whats-stopping-you-from-getting-a-plasma/]</u> A majority of voters rebuked my premise, picking "I love my plasma." The other responses were fairly evenly split among the choices.

However, there was a surprisingly common reason given in the comments that baffled me, and it's so bizarre it's clearly worth debunking, or at least shining the light on the facts.

So how much do TVs weigh?

Though mostly made of plastic, all TVs have some metal parts, and usually some glass as well. Compared with TVs from a few years ago (or the CRT "tube" TVs of yore), all TVs are light. Or at least, light*er*.

There are two main reasons why the weight of a TV is worth considering: where you're placing/mounting it, and the initial post-purchase box-wrangling and setup. Weight shouldn't be an issue with shipping, as it's far too easy to find places that offer free shipping.

When it comes to TV stands, all but the flimsiest will support pretty much every TV on the market (we'll cover the specifics in the Weight section).

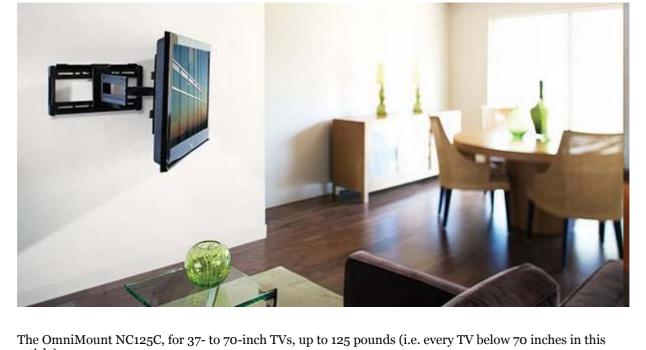
If you're planning on wall-mounting your TV, there's a wall mount that can support it. I checked several wall-mount manufacturers, like <u>OmniMount</u>

[http://www.omnimount.com/], Sanus [http://www.sanus.com/us/en/] and Monoprice [http://www.monoprice.com/]. TV size and weight are the two deciding factors for what mount you can get. Every size/weight I checked was available in flush, tilt, and full-motion designs.

Here's the most interesting bit: Mounts designed for a certain size TV (50 inches, say) can support nearly every TV of that size. As in, if you have a 50-inch LCD, you're going to be buying the same mount that someone with a 50-inch plasma can get. Most (though not all) of the mounts that I checked out for this article designed for 50-inch TVs handled 125 pounds, far more than even today's 65-inch plasmas.

So again, I'm not sure why the weight matters, when you're getting the same mount

regardless of weight.



article).

(Credit: OmniMount)

This is with the typical two-stud mounting. Personally, I would never hang anything expensive on a wall without finding a stud, but that's me. I checked with Zach Eyman, senior product manager for OmniMount, maker of TV mounts:

Me: Do you have a general rule like "max this weight for single stud mounting?"

Zach Eyman: "A good rule of thumb is 80 pounds for a single stud, but a specific

mount's specifications should always be followed."

Eighty pounds, as we'll see later, is pretty much everything below 60 inches.

# Me: "What's Omnimount's general take on drywall-only mounting (i.e., no studs)?"

**ZE**: "If designed and engineered correctly, drywall mounts allow the most flexibility of mounting locations since you are not limited by stud placement. Since safety is a top priority, OmniMount's drywall mounts are reserved for lighter-weight panels, under 40

You'd be pushing that limit with any 50-inch panel, by the way.

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pounds."

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#### **Unpacking?**

This was another common reason given for why a lighter TV is better. I don't get this one, either. As far as unpacking and moving the TV from the store to your home, you always need more than one person. Unless you're getting a cheap 32-inch TV, get some assistance. Seriously. Even if the TV

isn't heavy, the pressure and torque you'll be exerting on the frame and bezel can be enough to damage the tiny wires that let the TV do its TVing. Trust me, I've destroyed TVs before doing nothing but normal unpacking/setup myself. Not dropping them, mind you, just hefting them off the Styrofoam and placing them on a table stand.

I don't quite understand the desire to purchase a lighter TV and deal with worse picture quality for the life of the television just because someone can't ply his friends with beer for 10 minutes worth of light labor.

### The weight

OK let's look at some actual weights of different size TVs. All weights were from the manufacturer's Web site or Amazon, and show the weight of just the panel. (Check out this article to find out what the model numbers mean

[http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199 7-57512773-221/what-hdtv-model-<u>numbers-mean/]</u>). I chose these brands, as they make both plasma and LCDs (plus Sharp, as a maker of <u>uberbig LCDs [http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199\_7-</u> <u>57458841-221/dont-buy-a-jumbo-lcd-tv-buy-a-projector/l</u>). Not every manufacturer makes the same screen sizes, and for fairness I kept the screen dimensions as close as possible. In some cases, there was a screen size available, but the weight wasn't available.

#### 42 inches

LG 42PN4500 (plasma) - 40.6 pounds Panasonic TC-P42S60 (plasma) - 35.3 pounds Samsung PN43F4500 (plasma) - 30 pounds

LG 42LN5700 (LED LCD) - 21.2 pounds Panasonic TC-L42E60 (LED LCD) - 29.8 pounds

Plasma average: 35.3 pounds; LED LCD average: 25.5 pounds

Difference: 38 percent



The Sanus XF228, for TVs 42 to 84 inches, and up to 175 pounds (i.e., every TV mentioned on this page).

### 50 inches

LG 50PN6500 (plasma) - 54.5 pounds Panasonic TC-P5oST60 [http://www.cnet.com/flat-panel-tvs/panasonic-tc-

**p50st60/4505-6482 7-35566949.html]** (plasma) - 49.6 pounds Samsung PN51F8500AF (plasma) - 46.1 pounds Samsung PN51F4500AF (plasma) - 39 pounds

LG 50LA6900 (LED LCD) - 38.1 pounds Panasonic TC-L50E60 (LED LCD) - 38.6 pounds Samsung UN50F5500 (LED LCD) - 28.7 pounds Plasma average: 47.3 lbs; LED LCD average: 35.1 pounds

Difference: 35 percent

60 inches

### LG 60PN6500 (plasma) - 76.1 pounds

Panasonic TC-P6oST60 (plasma) - 69.5 pounds

Samsung PN60F8500 [http://www.cnet.com/flat-panel-tvs/samsung-

**pn6of8500/4505-6482\_7-35566923.html]** (plasma) - 64.4 pounds LG 60LA8600 (LED LCD) - 61.1 pounds

Samsung UN60ES7550 (LED LCD) - 45.2 pounds

Plasma average: 70 lbs; LED LCD average: 53.2 lbs

Difference: 32 percent

# 65 inches

Panasonic TC-P65ZT60 [http://www.cnet.com/flat-panel-tvs/panasonic-tc**p65zt60/4505-6482 7-35564328.html** (plasma) - 90.4 pounds Samsung PN64F8500 (plasma) - 72.3 pounds

Panasonic TC-L65E60 (LED LCD) - 64.2 pounds ("Item Weight" via Amazon)

Samsung UN65F7050 (LED LCD) - 50.8 pounds

Plasma average: 81.4 pounds; LED LCD average: 57.5 pounds

Difference: 41 percent

#### Even bigger Samsung UN75F8000 (LED LCD) - 79.1 pounds

Samsung UN85S9AF (LED LCD) - 151.5 pounds

LG 84LM9600 (LED LCD) - 150.36 pounds Sharp LC90LE745U (LED LCD) - 141.1 pounds

It's worth noting even the heaviest TV here, the Samsung, has multiple wall mounts available. For perspective, RCA's 38-inch, 16x9 tube HDTV from 10 years ago was 212 pounds.

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So yes, technically plasmas are heavier than a similarly sized LCD. On average, based on this sampling, they're about 36.5 percent heavier. But to say that's the whole story is as specious as me saying "The heaviest TVs on the market today are LCDs!" which, in the narrowest sense, is just as true.

One commenter said he liked being able to haul his TV over to his friend's house for gaming. A pretty specific, but definitely valid, consideration.

#### **Bottom line**

There are **plenty of reasons not to get plasma [http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199\_7-57344058-221/led-lcd-vs-plasma-vs-lcd/]**, but weight seems to me the most absurd. Making a decision about a purchase based on such a trivial aspect is completely bypassing the vastly more important aspects, like picture quality, features, price, energy efficiency, and so on.

Got a question for Geoff? First, check out all the other articles he's written [http://www.cnet.com/8725-4\_1-o.html?
username=GeoffMorrison&rpp=100] on topics like HDMI cables
[http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938\_105-20056502-1/why-all-hdmi-cables-are-the-same/], LED LCD vs. plasma [http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199\_7-57344058-221/led-lcd-vs-plasma-vs-lcd/], Active vs Passive 3D [http://www.cnet.com/8301-33199\_7-57437344-221/active-3d-vs-passive-3d-whats-better/], and more. Still have a question? Send him an e-mail [http://www.cnet.com/profile/GeoffMorrison/]! He won't tell you what TV to buy, but he might use your letter in a future article. You can also send him a message on Twitter: @TechWriterGeoff [http://twitter.com/TechWriterGeoff].

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### **About Geoffrey Morrison [http://www.cnet.com/profile/GeoffMorrison/]**

Geoffrey Morrison was editor in chief of *Home Entertainment* magazine and before that, technical editor of *Home Theater* magazine. He currently contributes to *Sound+Vision* magazine, HDGuru.com, and several other Web and print publications. He is NIST and ISF trained, and has a degree in audio production from Ithaca College. His debut novel, *Undersea* [http://underseanovel.com/] is available in <a href="majoretack">paperback</a> [http://www.amazon.com/Undersea-Geoffrey-Morrison/dp/098477792X] and on the <a href="majoretack">Kindle</a>

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Jun 17, 2013

You should never mount ANY TV to drywall. It is subject to failure related to moisture and other factors. I once broke a \$2000 guitar (less than 5 pounds) because I had it hanging from a screw-in drywall anchor that pulled out. Studs, on the other hand, will hold a lot more than 80 pounds. You can easily hang a 200 pound man from a lag bolt (I have done it)....They are just being conservative. And if you tap into two studs, as most mounts will, you are golden for whatever TV you might want to hang.

What gets me is that we never used to worry about weight of a TV when they were all behemoths. I think weight should be far down the list of specs to consider, with all the ones related to picture quality being foremost. I would definitely not ever pick a TV with an inferior picture, no matter how light it is. Fortunately, for all practical purposes, it is hard to find a really "bad" TV among the mainstream offerings. Most of the quality differences are smaller than they would lead you to believe...

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### a4vdigital\_dotmac [http://www.cnet.com/profile/a4vdigital\_dotmac]

Jun 17, 2013

Good article - we have almost all flat screens (9 - all led and lcd) with a few 'old' crts floating around. Didn't think about weight at all, but did think about power consumption!! I'd like to see a follow up article on that for Plasma vs LCD vs LED !!

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# **Kevico\_Suave** [http://www.cnet.com/profile/Kevico\_Suave]

Jun 17, 2013

Wow, I did a pretty exhaustive search last year for the best TV for our needs (got a Panasonic plasma) and never even once considered weight as an issue. I agree, unless you've got some really specific reason, like hauling to another location repeatedly, I don't see weight as being a criteria at all.

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# royauty [http://www.cnet.com/profile/royauty]

@Kevico\_Suave [http://www.cnet.com/profile/Kevico\_Suave] Weight is one of the things I looked for during my last purcahse, but I used to use it as a proxy for how new/modern a TV was. For a while, you could tell which were the older sets and which were the newer ones just by looking at how heavy they were - much better than plowing through increasingly-confusing/maddening lists of model numbers!

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