Choosing an HDMI Cable for 4K and eARC

Choose HDMI cables by certification, length and connection needs. What 4K/120Hz and eARC require, and when a cable swap helps.

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Offline edition. Check your model and follow its manufacturer instructions. Open the current online guide.

An HDMI cable is worth buying when it meets a specific connection requirement or replaces a cable that fails a controlled test. A more expensive jacket, a bigger version number, or an “8K” badge on a shop listing does not establish that it will solve a sound problem.

This is a documentation-based buying guide, not a ranking from physical cable tests. Start with the cable supplied with your console or soundbar, if you still have it. If your present connection works at the formats you use, this guide gives you no reason to replace it.

Match the cable to the connection

For a new 4K/120Hz video connection, look for the official **Ultra High Speed HDMI Cable** certification. HDMI Licensing lists this cable category for configurations up to 48Gbps, including 4K/120Hz. **Premium High Speed** certification covers up to 18Gbps and formats including 4K/60Hz. These are cable categories, not promises that every connected TV supports those signals. See the official cable guide.

For the TV-to-soundbar connection, check the soundbar manufacturer's cable guidance separately. HDMI's eARC overview describes a return-audio connection rather than a video format. A 48Gbps video rating should not be presented as the bandwidth that a soundbar itself needs for sound.

Verify the actual item

Check the label on the packaging and authenticate the certification QR code. The HDMI certification information explains what those labels establish. A search result for a brand or product family is insufficient: confirm the length and exact item delivered, especially if a listing groups several variants.

The product names listed with this article are shopping leads, not independently verified winners. We have not measured their durability, tested every length, or confirmed every marketplace seller. Compare return terms, connector clearance and the specification of the item you actually intend to order.

Measure before buying

Measure the route with enough slack to remove equipment without pulling on the sockets. Check whether a connector fits behind a wall mount. For an active or optical design, read that exact cable's instructions for direction, power and support for the return-audio connection. Do not assume that all products described as fiber HDMI behave alike.

There is no universal length at which every copper cable fails or every optical cable becomes necessary. A successful installation depends on the particular cable and the equipment at both ends. For an in-wall run, also check the applicable installation requirements before closing the wall.

Test before blaming the cable

Treat a cable change as a comparison. Use the same source, port, content and output settings with a known-working cable, preferably without an intervening switch or adapter. Record whether the symptom follows the cable. That is an editorial troubleshooting suggestion, not a claim that cables cause most HDMI faults.

If the replacement changes nothing, restore the original connection and investigate the supported format and device settings. Do not keep buying successively more expensive cables to compensate for an incompatible port or audio route.

Paid link: Zeskit Maya 8K 48Gbps Certified HDMI Cable. GadgetGuiders may earn a commission at no extra cost to you. Verify the exact item and return terms; this link is not evidence of compatibility or comparative performance.

Optional shopping references, not independently tested recommendations. Verify the exact model, compatibility and seller before purchasing. These are paid links.

Equipment mentioned in this guide

Check connections and settings first. Buy only if you have established a need.

Zeskit Maya 8K 48Gbps Certified HDMI Cable

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Monoprice 8K Certified Ultra High Speed HDMI Cable

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Cable Matters 48Gbps 8K HDMI Cable

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Links for offline readers

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3. https://www.hdmi.org/spec2sub/ultrahdmicables
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