

# Where should I put my flat-screen TV?



In every dream home a heartache, as Bryan Ferry once remarked. His was a live-in lover with a difference: she was inflatable. These days, the problem is more likely to be the new telly. It's wide, it's flat, it's pricey, it'll impress any passing males aged three to 30, but where exactly should it go?

After 46 years, Dixons is dumping the cathode-ray television – the one that, like so many of its viewers, has an ample rear. Henceforth, we can have any shape as long as it's flat. Not that we are bovvered; sales of big-bum sets have collapsed from 80% of the market to 20% in a year. As John Clare, Dixons' boss, says, "No one wants a bulky telly in their sitting-room any more."

Clearly, your new flat-screen TV should go on the wall. That's the point of it being flat. And wall space is easier to find than a patch of floor. Even if you don't have room to swing a cat, you should be able to hang a screen. But then the question is, which bit of wall?

The obvious spot is over the fireplace, if you still have one. It's central, visible, probably opposite the sofa, and reassuringly redolent of cavemen watching flames. But is it too focal? Would you be saying: my home centres on my TV? Plasma, ergo sum? Plus, you'd be forever staring upwards, adding a cricked neck to your bruised ego.

Alternative solutions can depend, not surprisingly, on your income. For the rich, the fashionable solution is a home cinema in another room. The super-rich, judging by *Footballers' Wives*, slap a flat screen in every room. The merely affluent could try the telly that becomes a mirror when switched off ([mirrormedia.com](http://mirrormedia.com)) or one built into the bathtiles ([tilevision.tv](http://tilevision.tv)).

For ordinary mortals, back on the sofa, two options remain: in the ex-fireplace – neat, but still too focal? – or elsewhere on the wall, picture-style. Again, this may be too high up, but you could go lower, perhaps using the wall space previously obscured by your old set. It may look odd, but not for long. All in all, it's just another pic on the wall.

**Tim de Lisle**