

Receiving WSFA with an Antenna

WSFA's transmitting tower is located in Grady, AL. Viewers should reference the map below and aim their antennas toward the blue star for best reception of WSFA's signal.

General information about antennas;

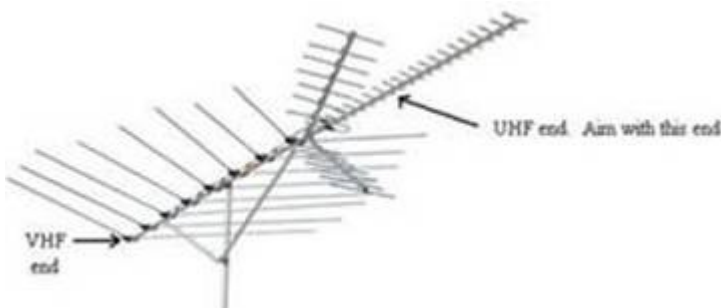
Indoor antennas, like the rabbit ears shown below, work best between 10 and 15 miles from the transmitter source. Make sure to adjust the dipoles to between 12 and 14 inches for best reception of WSFA's VHF channel 12 signal. Also important to have the antenna close to a window facing the direction from where the signal is coming from. Reference the map below to determine this. Since the digital transition, we have noticed these antennas typically receive marginal to poor signal levels that usually result in much more picture breakup (especially during poor weather conditions) than outdoor antennas. They are also susceptible to interference from electric appliances used in the home like running a vacuum cleaner.



Outdoor antennas like the one shown below have a 40 to 50 mile range and work pretty well in all weather conditions. They are low profile, easy to install and receive signals from all directions so you shouldn't have to turn it to pick up another station once you get it installed.



The VHF/UHF outdoor antenna shown below should be used if your over 50 miles from the transmitter source. They are like shining a flashlight and have about a 30 degree beam width so aiming at the source is critical. Aim with the UHF end of the antenna to receive both UHF and VHF signals. If you are on the edge of our coverage area you may want to consider using an amplifier to boost the signal level you are receiving for more stable reception.



Antenna troubleshooting tips:

If you have an antenna and cannot receive WSFA please review the following tips for better reception. Know the range of your antenna to make sure it will receive VHF channels at your distance from our tower site. If you're not sure visit this site; http://www.myrateplan.com/how_far/, and use Grady, Alabama as the "To Address" which is where our tower site is located.

If your antenna and cable have been up more than 10 years you may want to consider replacing the coaxial cable with new RG6 cable and replace the 300 to 75 ohm transformer if it has one. The metal prong antennas use these and they attach to wing nuts on the antenna which can rust over time and reduce reception. The weather tight boot on the transformer can deteriorate over time and will let water get into the cable reducing reception.

If you are within 20 to 30 miles of our tower using an amplifier it's possible for too much signal to be delivered to your TV or converter box which can cause you not to be able to tune us in. You can bypass the amplifier to confirm if that's a problem.

If you have a wireless internet router in close proximity to your TV, converter box or any RF splitters that carry your TV signal, be sure to have these separated by at least 50ft to ensure there is no interference.

If you are on the fringe or have marginal reception there are certain times of the year where temperature layers can affect reception. These are typically during winter to spring and fall to winter when temperature inversions occur. These can last a couple of hours or until the thermal layers stabilize. This article describes this in more detail. <http://www.grahambrock.com/downloads/INVERSIONS.pdf>

For more information on reception please visit <http://www.dtv.gov/fixreception.html>.

WSFA

Channel = VHF channel 12

Frequency = 204 to 210 Megahertz

Effective radiated power = 31,600 watts

Tower location = Latitude, 31-58-28 north, Longitude, 86-09-46 west

Tower Height = 1,933 feet

