STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

OCTOBER 2026 · 3 FREE PROJECTS

MAKE YOUR SMART TV DUMB AGAIN

Three free, open-source projects strip the ads, tracking and clutter off your TV and give you a clean home screen, with an AI coding assistant doing the fiddly parts. This guide tells you which one fits your TV, how to run it in about ten to fifteen minutes, and how to undo it.

01

CleanYourTV

Android TV and Google TV: debloat + clean launcher.

02

Free My TV

Ad-free home screen for Google TV, LG and Samsung.

03

dumbtv

Fire TV sticks and Fire TV Edition TVs.

START HERE

? PICK YOUR PROJECT

MATCH YOUR TV

YOUR TV	USE	WHAT YOU GET
Android TV / Google TV (Sony, TCL, Hisense, Philips, Xiaomi…)	**CleanYourTV** or **Free My TV**	Ads, tracking and junk switched off + a clean launcher; or just Free My TV's ad-free home screen
LG (webOS 3 or newer)	**Free My TV**	Its home screen as an LG app, through LG's own Developer Mode
Samsung (2016 or newer, Tizen 2.4+)	**Free My TV**	Its home screen as a Samsung app, through Developer mode
Amazon Fire TV stick, Cube, Fire TV Edition TV	**dumbtv**	Amazon ads + tracking off, a DNS filter, a tiny home screen
Roku, older Samsung / LG	none of the three	CleanYourTV links a step-by-step guide to switch off tracking by hand (cleanyour.tv/not-android)

YOU NEED

- A computer on the **same Wi-Fi** as the TV.
- About 10–15 minutes.
- Optional but easiest: an AI coding assistant (Claude Code, Codex or Gemini CLI). Each project also has steps to do it by hand.

BEFORE YOU START

- Write down the TV's **IP address** (in its network settings).
- Know which apps you actually use, so nothing you watch gets switched off.
- Try it on a **spare TV** first if you have one.

01 CLEANYOURTV

ANDROID TV · GOOGLE TV · GITHUB.COM/GATHIN23/CLEANYOURTV

It started with one before-and-after of the creator's parents' TV, cleaned up by Claude Code over Wi-Fi (7.4M views). It backs up your TV, switches off the maker's ads, tracking, content rows and preloaded junk (nothing is uninstalled), and installs a small, clean home screen.

STEPS (WITH A CODING ASSISTANT)

1. **On the TV:** Settings → Device Preferences → About → press OK on **Build** seven times → back → Developer options → **USB debugging** on (and Network/ADB debugging if you see it).
2. **On your computer:** `git clone https://github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv`, open that folder in your assistant, paste the project's `PROMPT.md` and fill in your TV model.
3. **Follow along:** accept "Allow USB debugging?" on the TV, then answer its checklist: which apps you use, the dock size and order, whether to keep the voice assistant, Chromecast and updates.

The README says this takes about fifteen minutes. No laptop? There's a community phone app at cleanyour.tv/app.

TELL YOUR ASSISTANT

```
I want to clean up my [TV brand + model] at [TV IP address].
Use this repo's PROMPT.md and its own scripts. Back up first,
ask me before disabling anything I might use (I watch: [your apps]),
and show me the restore command at the end.
```

Undo: nothing is uninstalled, so the restore script brings every app and the stock home screen back. After a **firmware update**, disabled apps can come back: the project's `tools/check.py` compares and `--fix` re-applies.

02 FREE MY TV

MIT · GITHUB.COM/SIMBASJUNGLES/FREE-MY-TV

A fast, ad-free home screen for Google TV, LG and Samsung TVs: your apps on a glass shelf, no sponsored rows, weather at a glance. No root, nothing uninstalled, and one button brings back the factory home screen.

GOOGLE TV / ANDROID TV

1. Settings → System → About → press **Android TV OS build** 7 times → Developer options → **USB debugging** on. Note the IP.
2. In your AI assistant, say: *"Install Free My TV (github.com/simbasjungles/free-my-tv) on my TV at [IP]. I live in [city]."*
3. On the TV: **Free My TV → Home Screen → Free My TV**, then tick *Always allow*.

LG AND SAMSUNG

- **LG:** install LG's free **Developer Mode** app (free LG developer account), turn on Dev Mode + Key Server, then the project's build + install steps. Dev Mode lasts about 40 days: press EXTEND now and then.
- **Samsung:** Apps → type **1 2 3 4 5** → Developer mode on with your computer's IP → install with TizenBrew Installer (type `simbasjungles/free-my-tv`).

Android 14: Google Play Protect may hold the ready-made APK as "Risky app blocked": the README says choose *More details → Install anyway*. The trending picks need your own free TMDB key; without it the shelf still works.

03 DUMBTV

FIRE TV · GITHUB.COM/HUMBLEMUZZU/DUMBTV

For a Fire TV stick, Cube or Fire TV Edition television, with no root: it switches off Amazon's sponsored rows, ad services, screen fingerprinting and telemetry, blocks what can't be switched off with a small DNS filter, and swaps in a 54 KB home screen with your apps and inputs. Your streaming apps stay.

STEPS

1. **On the TV:** Settings → My Fire TV → About → press OK on the device name 7 times → Developer Options → **ADB debugging** on. Note the IP (About → Network).
2. **With a coding agent:** clone the repo, open the agent in it and say *"Clean up my Fire TV. Its IP address is [IP]."* It reads the project's instructions and asks you a few questions.
3. **By hand:** `preflight.sh` (shows what would change, changes nothing) → `configure.sh` → `all.sh` (asks before each step, reboots the TV twice) → `verify.sh`.

UNDO EVERYTHING

```
./scripts/restore.sh   # re-enables every package, removes the filter, gives Home back to Amazon
```

! Works from macOS, Linux and Windows (WSL or Git Bash). Rather not do it yourself? The project offers help at dumbtv.org/help.

BEFORE, DURING, AFTER

CHECKLIST

1. **Spare TV first**
   Every brand and model is different. Test on a second TV or stick if you can.
2. **Keep the restore path**
   All three keep a way back (restore script / one-button undo). Know where it is before you start.
3. **Read before you approve**
   Your assistant should ask before switching anything off. Say no to anything you use (voice remote, casting, updates).
4. **Turn debugging off afterwards**
   When you're done, switch USB/ADB debugging off again in Developer options, so nothing else on your Wi-Fi can connect to the TV.
5. **After a TV update, check again**
   A firmware update can bring disabled apps back. Re-run the project's check or cleanup.
6. **Never show passwords on screen**
   If you film your TV for social media, keep account screens and codes out of shot.

NOT SUPPORTED

- Roku and non-Android Samsung/LG models can't run CleanYourTV (Free My TV covers Samsung 2016+ and LG webOS 3+).
- These are community projects, not made or supported by the TV makers.

CUT THROUGH THE AI NOISE

All three are new community projects (October 2026). Check each README before you start, and keep the undo path.

news.aistacksignal.com/dumb-tv

SOURCES (CHECKED OCT 26, 2026)

github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv · cleanyour.tv
github.com/simbasjungles/free-my-tv · freemytv.io
github.com/humblemuzzu/dumbtv · dumbtv.org
The viral before/after (7.4M views): x.com/gathint/status/2111379569030939102
The trend: techcrunch.com · people using AI to make smart TVs dumb again

AI Stack Signal is not affiliated with these projects or with any TV maker. Steps are summarised from each project's README on the date above and can change. Changing your TV's software is at your own risk; brand names are trademarks of their owners.