M A V E R I C K A I

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU ASK CLAUDE TO HACK YOUR TV

NO MORE ADS AND A BRAND NEW HOME SCREEN

Your TV's home screen is full of sponsored rows and apps you never asked for. Give Claude your TV model and one free project link, and it finds your TV on your Wi-Fi, switches off the ads and junk apps, and builds you a clean new home screen that looks like an Apple TV. Nothing gets deleted, and one prompt puts it all back.

The 20-second developer mode steps for your TV

The free project link from my video

The exact prompts from my video

A clean home screen that looks like an Apple TV

How to put everything back

Fixes if something doesn't work

November 2026

Start Here: What You Need

THE PLAN

1. Turn on developer mode on your TV (about 20 seconds).
2. Open Claude's Code tab on your computer and send the first prompt.
3. Hit Allow on the TV, then send the trick prompt.

Before you start

Your TV: An Android TV or Google TV (Sony, TCL, Hisense, Philips, Xiaomi, Chromecast with Google TV and most others). Not Samsung, LG, Roku or Vizio.

Your computer: A Mac or Windows PC on the same Wi-Fi as the TV, with the Claude desktop app and a paid Claude plan (Pro or higher).

Your time: About 15 minutes, with the TV on and your remote in hand.

This all happens from your computer, not your phone. Claude talks to your TV over your Wi-Fi, so the computer has to be on the same network as the TV. You need the Claude desktop app (free at claude.com/download) and a paid plan, Pro ($20 a month) or higher, because Claude Code isn't on the Free plan.

Will it work on my TV?

Your TV	What you get
Android TV or Google TV	Everything: ads and junk apps off, plus the new home screen
Amazon Fire TV	The cleanup only. Fire TV won't let you swap its home screen
Samsung, LG, Roku, Vizio, Hisense VIDAA	Not this. Go to cleanyour.tv/not-android to turn off the tracking with your remote

Not sure? Look for "Google TV" on your home screen, or search your model at cleanyour.tv/tvs. It has tested lists for over 480 TV models.

Where this came from

In October, a developer named Gathin (@gathint on X) posted a before and after of his parents' TV. He gave Claude Code the TV's model number, it found the TV on the Wi-Fi, switched off 25 sponsored ads and junk apps, and built a new home screen that looks like an Apple TV. The post got over 8 million views, and he turned it into a free project called **CleanYourTV**. That's the link from my video.

HEADS UP

The real project lives at github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv and cleanyour.tv. Other sites using the name, like cleanyourtv.com, are not run by the project.

Copy This First: The Prompts From My Video

Turn on developer mode first (Step 1). Then, in Claude's **Code** tab, put your TV model in this and send it. It runs every prompt from the video for you, one after the other:

ALL PROMPTS | COPY & PASTE

```
Do these in order and show each one under its own short heading:
1) My TV model is [YOUR TV MODEL]. Clone this free project and follow the steps in its
PROMPT.md: https://github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv. Find my TV on my Wi-Fi and connect
to it.
2) I want you to remove all the ads and build me a clean new home screen that I
actually like.
Back up my TV before you change anything, ask me before you switch off any app I might
use, and when you're done, tell me how to put everything back.
```

Or go one at a time, like in the video. First send this, with your TV model:

PROMPT 1 | COPY & PASTE

```
My TV model is [YOUR TV MODEL]. Clone this free project and follow the steps in its
PROMPT.md: https://github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv. Find my TV on my Wi-Fi and connect
to it.
```

Then, once it says it's connected, here's the trick:

PROMPT 2 | COPY & PASTE

```
I want you to remove all the ads and build me a clean new home screen that I actually
like.
```

> **TIP**
>
> Your model number is on the sticker on the back of the TV, or in **Settings > System > About** (Google TV) or **Settings > Device Preferences > About** (Android TV).

Step 1: Turn On Developer Mode on Your TV

This is the 20-second part. It lets your computer talk to the TV. Grab your remote.

Google TV (most TVs from the last few years)

- Open **Settings > System > About**.
- Scroll to **Android TV OS build** and press OK on it **seven times**, until it says you're now a developer.
- Press Back, then open **Settings > System > Developer options**.
- Turn on **USB debugging**. If you also see **Network debugging** or **ADB debugging**, turn that on too.

Android TV (if your Settings has "Device Preferences")

- Open **Settings > Device Preferences > About**.
- Press OK on **Build** seven times, until it says you're now a developer.
- Press Back, then open **Settings > Device Preferences > Developer options**.
- Turn on **USB debugging**, plus **Network debugging** if your TV has it.

TIP

It says "USB" but it works over Wi-Fi. No cable needed. Some Google TV devices, like the Chromecast with Google TV, also have **Wireless debugging** with a pairing code. If Claude can't connect, it will tell you to turn that on and ask for the code.

HEADS UP

Leave the TV on for the whole thing. If something is plugged into the TV's USB port, like a speaker or a drive, it may stop working until you turn debugging off again.

Step 2: Tell Claude to Find Your TV

- **Open the Claude desktop app** on your computer and click the **Code** tab at the top.
- **Pick where it works.** Under the message box, choose **Local**, then click the folder button and choose **Open folder...**. Make a new empty folder called **TV** on your Desktop and pick it. Claude saves your TV's backup here, so keep it.
- **Send Prompt 1** with your TV model (or the all-in-one box on the Copy This First page).

Claude downloads the free project, scans your Wi-Fi and finds your TV.

Allow it on the TV

A box pops up on your TV: **Allow USB debugging?** Tick **Always allow from this computer**, then select **OK**. Claude tells you right before it appears.

Allow it on your computer

Claude asks before it runs anything on your computer. Read what it wants to do and approve it. It also installs a few free developer tools it needs to build your new home screen, which is most of the 15 minutes.

> **TIP**
>
> On a Mac, if a pop-up asks whether Claude can find devices on your local network, click **Allow**. Clicked Don't Allow? Open **System Settings > Privacy & Security > Local Network**, turn on **Claude**, then quit and reopen Claude.

Step 3: The Trick: Remove the Ads

Once Claude says it's connected, send Prompt 2:

"I want you to remove all the ads and build me a clean new home screen that I actually like."

Claude asks you a few quick questions first, so it never switches off something you use:

- Which streaming apps you actually watch
- Which apps go in your dock, and in what order (four is the default)
- Whether to keep the voice assistant, Chromecast and software updates

Then it backs up your TV, switches off the ad apps, sponsored rows and junk apps, and builds and installs your new home screen. It checks every step with screenshots from your TV.

What you end up with

A pitch-black home screen with your favorite apps in a dock, the rest in a grid, a big clock, and no sponsored rows. Your streaming apps still work and still update through the Play Store.

> **TIP**
>
> Want it different? Stay in the same chat and ask: "Put Netflix first in the dock," "Make the dock six apps," or "Add my own photo as the background."

Step 4: Finish Up and Put Everything Back

When Claude says it's done

Turn debugging back off: go to **Developer options** (same place as Step 1) and turn off **USB debugging**, plus **Network** or **Wireless debugging** if you turned them on. Claude reminds you and checks that the connection is closed. Your new home screen keeps working.

Don't like it? Put it all back

Nothing was deleted. The apps were only switched off, and Claude saved a backup on your computer before it touched anything. Turn **USB debugging** back on, open Claude's Code tab with the same **TV** folder on the same computer, and send:

PROMPT 3 | COPY & PASTE

```
Put everything back on my TV the way it was before. Use the CleanYourTV restore script
and the backup you saved.
```

Your old home screen and every app come back. The new home screen stays installed until you remove it in your TV's **Settings > Apps** (or ask Claude to).

After a TV software update

An update can bring some of the junk apps back. Turn **USB debugging** on again and send:

PROMPT 4 | COPY & PASTE

```
My TV updated and some of the junk apps came back. Check my TV against the list we
applied and switch them off again.
```

> **TIP**
>
> No computer handy? Your TV's own **Settings > Apps** page can turn any app back on.

Common Mistakes and Quick Fixes

If this happens	Try this
You can't find Developer options	Do the seven presses first: **Android TV OS build** on Google TV, **Build** on Android TV. Then it appears under **System** or **Device Preferences**.
Claude can't find your TV	Make sure the TV is on, on the same Wi-Fi as your computer, and USB debugging is on. Still nothing? Give Claude the TV's IP address from **Settings > Network & Internet**.
"No route to host" on a Mac	Open **System Settings > Privacy & Security > Local Network**, turn on **Claude**, then quit and reopen Claude.
No "Allow" box on the TV	Go to the TV's home screen and ask Claude to connect again. On some Google TV devices, turn on **Wireless debugging** and give Claude the pairing code.
Your TV is a Samsung, LG, Roku or Vizio	This only works on Android TV and Google TV. Use cleanyour.tv/not-android to turn off the tracking with your remote.
You have a Fire TV	Claude can switch off the junk apps, but Fire TV won't let you replace the home screen.
Claude needs your computer password	It gives you a command to paste in Terminal. Type your password there, never in the chat.
You don't see the Code tab	Claude Code needs a paid plan (Pro or higher) and the desktop app. It won't work from the phone app.
An app you use disappeared	Tell Claude: "Turn [APP NAME] back on." Or turn it back on in the TV's **Settings > Apps**.
Still seeing ads inside YouTube or free channels	Those come from inside the app, not the home screen. Ask Claude about the optional ad-blocking DNS (it doesn't block YouTube ads).
The home screen goes black or keeps restarting	Send the put-everything-back prompt from Step 4.
Junk apps came back after an update	Turn USB debugging on and send the update prompt from Step 4.

Quick Reference: Hack Your TV With Claude

Step	Where	What to do
Developer mode	TV	Press **Android TV OS build** (or **Build**) seven times, then turn on **USB debugging**
Connect	Claude desktop app, **Code** tab	Pick a new **TV** folder, send Prompt 1 with your TV model
Allow	TV	**Always allow from this computer**, then **OK**
The trick	Same chat	Send Prompt 2, answer Claude's questions
Finish	TV	Turn **USB debugging** back off
Undo	Same folder	Turn debugging on, send the put-everything-back prompt

The free project: https://github.com/Gathin23/cleanyourtv

DO THIS TODAY

Grab your remote and check your TV's Settings. If it's Google TV or Android TV, do the seven presses and turn on USB debugging. Then open Claude's Code tab and send the first prompt with your TV model.

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Same TV, no more ads, and a home screen you actually like.