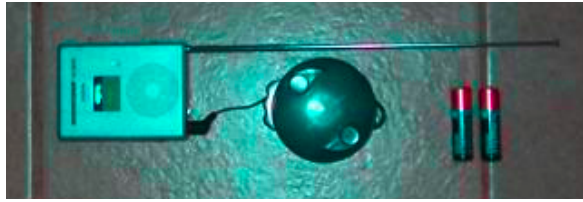


## Radio Reception Improvement!



It sounds antiquated to talk about improving your radio reception. But in a disaster radios may still work. Here's how to get **better radio reception!**

- **Use the radio in your car.** The best radio you own is probably in your car. Some folks take radios out of cars, add speakers from cars, use automobile batteries, put up an antenna from a car, and have excellent radios for a very small investment.
- **Buy a good radio in the first place.** Cheap radios tend to be poor radios. Spend a little more money. Get a radio that has AM, FM, Weather, and Shortwave bands. Get a radio that uses an AC adapter and batteries. When it comes to batteries, ideally you'll want the same kind of batteries in your radio as in your flashlight.
- **Keep your hands near the antenna.** There's a complicated reason for why this works - but for some radios keep your hand near the antenna to improve reception.
- **Put up an antenna.** A good antenna is important if you want to listen to shortwave radio. I'm told that a good shortwave antenna also will work for the FM band. A good source for antenna information is the Amateur Radio Relay League at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). Many ham radio operators are also ARRL members. In an emergency ham radio operators may be on the air when commercial radio stations are not.
- **Put the radio on a lazy susan.** Instead of moving the radio or antenna around by hand, put the radio on a lazy susan and spin it until you get the best reception.
- **Use fresh batteries.** Duh!
- **Replace the rubber duckie antenna on a handheld radio with a better antenna.** This tip comes from a ham radio operator, who says the rubber duckie (short, black factory-made antenna) on handheld radios is not the best option. He uses the antenna plug-in on the radio with a better antenna.
- **Consider antique radios.** Today's cheapest transistor radio may have better reception than your grandfather's 1950s tube-type radio. If a disaster caused by Electromagnet Pulse (EMP) occurred, some believe that the electronics in a transistor radio would be burned out. They conjecture that an old tube-type radio would not be damaged by EMP. (But would radio stations still be broadcasting?)