



Antennas 101

The cheapest way to double what your radio can do

Four kinds of GMRS antennas

Type	Where it goes	What it does
Stock "rubber duck"	On the handheld	Short and tough, but the weakest
Long whip (15–18 in)	On the handheld	Noticeably better range, still portable
Magnet-mount	Truck roof	Uses the metal roof as a ground plane; big gain over a handheld inside a cab
Base antenna (J-pole or similar)	Mast or roofline	Highest and best; the backbone at the ranch

Getting it right



Match the connector

UV-5G Plus takes SMA-female antennas; check before ordering



Mount it high

Every foot of height helps more than extra watts



Keep cable short

Long, thin coax wastes signal; use quality low-loss cable



Never transmit without it

Talking with no antenna attached can damage the radio

Source: True Prepper: Best GMRS radios

Inside a vehicle

Handheld in the cab

- Metal body blocks much of the signal
- Range can drop by half or more
- Hold it near a window at least

Roof antenna outside

- Signal goes out in every direction
- Pair with a mobile radio up to 50 W
- Best upgrade for the drive to the ranch

Remember

A \$25 antenna placed high often beats a \$200 radio placed low.