



# Codec Comparison Cheat Sheet

MPEG-2 to H.266 (2026) - tinted cells mark the per-row leader

Criterion	MPEG-2	H.264 / AVC	H.265 / HEVC	VP9	AV1	H.266 / VVC
Year	1995	2003	2013	2013	2018	2020
Body	ITU+ISO	ITU+ISO JVT	ITU+ISO JCT-VC	Google	AOMedia	ITU+ISO JVET
Savings vs prior	—	~50% vs MPEG-2	~50% vs H.264	~50% vs H.264	~30% vs HEVC	~50% vs HEVC
Max block	16x16 MB	16x16 MB	64x64 CTU	64x64 SB	128x128 SB	128x128 MTT
Bit depth	8-bit	up to 14-bit	up to 16-bit	8/10/12	8/10/12	10/12
Max resolution	1920x1152	4096x2304	8192x4320	8192x4320	7680x4320	16384x8704
Patent model	1 pool	1 pool	2-3 pools	Royalty-free	Royalty-free	2 pools
Browsers	legacy	universal	Safari/Edge	Chrome/FF/Edge/Saf14+	Chrome/FF/Edge/Saf17+	none native
HW decode	set-tops	universal	near-universal	Android+iOS14+	iPhone 15 Pro+, M3+	almost none
2026 deployment	broadcast only	~80% production	~65% prod, +20%	YouTube+Android	~17% prod, +40%	<1% streaming

 Royalty-free

 Multi-pool licensing

 Per-row leader