

Don't forget the most important frequencies for night time listening - the **GRAVEYARD** frequencies. Sounds downright GHOULISH, doesn't it? Let me explain. There are 6 frequencies on the upper part of the AM band dedicated to low power stations. Many stations go to a lower power setting after sunset to prevent their stronger radio signals from interfering with other stations on the same frequency. The "graveyard" frequencies are LOCAL channel frequencies used by these stations. On the AM dial, they are 1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450 and 1490 kHz. These are the "officially" listed frequencies, but my research shows that there are many more in that range and above. One way to detect this: If you have NO local stations on a given frequency and can hear what sounds like a zillion people talking at once and maybe sounding like a low rumble, you are most likely on a "graveyard" frequency.

Local channels are 1230, 1240, 1340, 1400, 1450, and 1490. Stations are limited here to a maximum transmitter power of 1000 watts and must use a non-directional antenna. These are very congested frequencies, with maximum reliable reception range at night usually restricted to less than 30 miles. (If you have no nearby stations on these frequencies, you will usually hear only a "rumble" at night on them.) However, reception at greater distances is possible with patience and good equipment. Local channels are often referred to as "graveyard" frequencies.

Stations on **regional channels** can use higher transmitter powers, typically up to about 20,000 watts, and directional antennas. As you might expect from the term "regional," **these stations are intended to serve specific geographic areas.** Regional stations often use different power levels and directional antennas for day and night operation; since AM band signals travel further at night, regional stations will reduce transmitter power and use a "tighter" directional antenna between their local sunset and local sunrise.

<https://www.nf8m.com/nf8m/us-medium-wave-pattern-references/>