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# THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION

## What You Need To Know About DTV



### What Is The Digital TV (DTV) Transition?

Currently, many over-the-air stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital TV formats. After February 17, 2009, full – power TV stations will broadcast only in digital. The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears”). If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must take action before February 17, 2009.

### Why Are Broadcast Stations Switching to Digital?

Federal law requires the switch, which will free up the airwaves for police, fire, and emergency rescue communications, allow broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality and offer more programming choices, and allow for advanced wireless services.

### What Should I Do to Be Ready?

You have three choices:

- 1** Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box. Digital-to-analog converter boxes are in stores and have a one-time cost of \$40-\$70. To help you pay for the boxes, the U.S. Government is offering two \$40 coupons per household. For more information on the coupons, visit [www.DTV2009.gov](http://www.DTV2009.gov), or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Plus, you should not need a new antenna if you get good quality reception on analog channels 2-51 with your existing antenna. **Or**
- 2** Buy a digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner). You do not need a High Definition TV (HDTV) to watch digital broadcast television. You only need a digital TV (or an analog TV connected to a digital-to-analog converter box). Plus, you should not need a new antenna if you get good quality reception on analog channels 2-51 with your existing antenna. **Or**
- 3** Subscribe to a paid TV service. If your TV set receives local broadcast stations through a paid provider such as cable or satellite TV, it is already prepared for the DTV transition. Cable companies are not required to transition or switch any of their channels to digital. However, if you have an analog TV that does not receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts on that TV.

**For More Information:**

1-888-CALL-FCC (Voice)

DTV.gov

1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY)

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## What You Can Do with Your Analog TV

### ➔ How can I extend the useful life of my analog TV?

If you have an analog TV set and receive free over the air broadcasts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency encourages you to extend the life of your TV by connecting it to a digital-to-analog converter box or subscribing to a paid TV service.

When buying a digital-to-analog converter box, look for one with the ENERGY STAR label. Converter boxes that are ENERGY STAR-qualified use less energy than conventional converter boxes. If all of the digital-to-analog converter boxes sold in the U.S. met the ENERGY STAR specification, we would save 823 million kilowatt-hours every year. A list of ENERGY STAR qualified models can be found at [www.energystar.gov/products](http://www.energystar.gov/products) (select Digital-to-Analog Converter Boxes).



### ➔ If I no longer want my old TV, what should I do with it?

**Recycle it!** If you decide to buy a new digital TV and no longer want your old analog TV, look for opportunities to recycle it. Recycling TVs recovers valuable materials from the circuit boards, metal wiring, leaded glass, and plastics. Call your local household hazardous waste collection and recycling program to find out whether they will be sponsoring an upcoming event to recycle TVs and other electronics. You can also check out the following Web sites to find a recycling program near you:

Identifying resources and locations for electronics recycling does not constitute EPA's endorsement of the services.

**Earth 911** [www.earth911.com/electronics](http://www.earth911.com/electronics) Earth 911's zip-code based search engine enables you to find recycling and reuse options in your community for a variety of products.

**National Recycling Coalition** [www.nrc-recycle.org/localresources.aspx](http://www.nrc-recycle.org/localresources.aspx) This page provides links to state recycling resources. Many communities have special collection and recycling days that are highlighted on their Web sites.

**My Green Electronics** [www.mygreenelectronics.org](http://www.mygreenelectronics.org) On this Consumer Electronics Association site, you can learn more about purchasing "green" electronic products and search for recycling opportunities.

For many working electronic products, donation is a good option because it facilitates reuse and extends the product life. However, with the switch to digital broadcasting, many charitable organizations may no longer be accepting analog TVs. Please check with the organization before you drop off your analog TV.