

Are You Ready Now?

February 17, 2009 is the last day of analog broadcast TV.

*Answers to 10 common questions about the **digital broadcast transition** provided by your colleagues at Comcast.*

1) What is the digital transition?

The nation's full power over-the-air local television stations such as ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, PBS and Univision, are moving from a broadcast transmission system known as "analog" to a newer system known as "digital".

The transition is a government mandate effective February 17, 2009 when TV stations will stop transmitting their programs using the older analog technology and transmit signals only in using digital technology.

2) Why is this happening?

The federal government is reclaiming the analog broadcast signals some of which will be used to enhance communications for emergency services providers, like fire and police departments.

3) What does the consumer need to do?

All TV's connected to cable will continue to work. Cable companies, like Comcast, will make sure that the signal going into your home will work with whatever set is connected to cable.

TV sets with digital tuners connected to antennas should not be affected.

Older TV's receiving signals through antennas such as rabbit ears or rooftop antennas without digital tuners will need one of the following to receive digital transmissions:

A connection to cable service, like Comcast, or satellite service

A digital to analog converter box

4) What about TV's that are not connected to cable?

TV's without digital tuners and no connection to a video service subscription need to be connected before February 17, 2009 to handle the reception of digital signals on those units.

Or, a digital-to-analog converter box can be purchased for each of those TV's

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5) *How can someone tell if a TV has a digital tuner built in?*

Most TV's with built in digital tuners have labels that say "Integrated Digital Tuner", "Digital Tuner Built-In", "Digital Receiver" or "Digital Tuner", "DTV", ATSC" or "HDTV".

TV's with any of those labels should be ok and not need a digital to analog converter box but will probably still need to be connected to antennas for reception.

6) *How can someone keep an analog television set useful?*

Purchase a digital-to-analog converter or connect to cable or another video service

7) *How can someone get help paying for the equipment needed?*

The federal government is offering \$40 coupons for the purchase of a digital-to-analog converter. Each household can request two coupons online at (www.dtv2009.gov) or by calling 888-388-2009.

8) *Will the reception be any different?*

Both picture and audio quality should be noticeable improved.

9) *Do these new digital-over-the-air signals deliver TV in high definition(HDTV)?*

Yes, many popular full power TV stations are already transmitting HDTV signals using digital broadcasting capacity.

HDTV signals are only able to be displayed by TV sets or monitors that are specially built to display them.

Digital TV's that are not HDTV-capable will display digital TV stations in standard definition.

10) *If I do have a new HDTV set, how do I receive real high definition?*

Video subscription services, like Comcast, can help consumers connect to high definition programming.

Or, special HDTV antennas can be purchased to receive broadcast TV HD channels that are available in your area.