

DTV Are You Ready?

Questions & Answers on DTV, Please Read!

When: After [February 17, 2009](#), full-power television stations will broadcast in digital only. This will affect persons using older TV's that are analog.

What: This means if you have an older TV (analog TV) that uses either a roof-top antenna or rabbit ears antenna, you will need to get a digital converter box. Or after February 17, 2009 you will see only static on your TV screen.

Not to worry if: if you have satellite or cable TV or a digital TV, you will not need to worry about getting a converter box. Your TV will receive the digital transmission. But, if your satellite is disconnected and you have an older-analog TV, then you will need a converter box.

How do you know if your TV is a digital TV: most likely if you have purchased a TV in the last year or so, it "probably" is digital. But if the TV is HDTV, "it may or may not be digital," you will have to ask the store or retailer where you bought the TV. Most likely (but possibly not always), if your TV is more than 3 years old, it is not a digital TV, but an analog TV. But you need to ask either the store where you bought the TV or go on the Internet, type in your TV model, and do some research.

Purchase a new TV: If you purchase a new TV, make sure it's a Digital TV. You must the retailer or store specifically "is this TV is a Digital TV that will receive Digital broadcasting." A very important question to ask when buying a TV.

How do I get my old TV to view Digital broadcasting: If you have an old analog television, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to continue to watch broadcast television. A digital television (a TV with an internal digital tuner) will allow you to continue to watch free over-the-air programming after February 17, 2009.

Converter Box Coupon Program: To help consumers with the DTV transition, the Government established the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon

Program. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), a part of the Department of Commerce, administers this program. Every U.S. household is eligible to receive up to two coupons, worth \$40 each, toward the purchase of eligible digital-to-analog converter boxes. **Currently No Funding**

Available: If you apply for the coupons now, you will receive a message that states “currently there is no funding available.” This means there is a waiting list for the \$40 coupons. This is all the information we have, for more information on the Digital-to-Analog Converter Box Coupon Program, visit the NTIA’s Web site at www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY).

Coupon Expiration: Please note that these coupons will expire 90 days after mailing. If coupons are expired or lost, they cannot be replaced.

Cost of Converter Boxes: Manufacturers and stores estimate that digital-to-analog converter boxes will sell from \$40 to \$70 each.

Digital broadcasting allows stations to offer improved picture and sound quality, and digital is much more efficient than analog.

An important benefit of the switch to all-digital broadcasting is that it will free up parts of the valuable broadcast spectrum for public safety communications (such as police, fire departments, and rescue squads).

There are many sources of information about the digital transition but one of the best is the government’s Web site www.dtv.gov. It contains information on what DTV is, questions consumers should ask when purchasing new television sets, what programs are available in DTV, and much more. You can also call 1-888-CALL-FCC.

IMPORTANT: GRTI does not have the converter box coupons. GRTI does not sell the converter boxes. GRTI is not a TV service provider. GRTI is offering information on the DTV as a Public Service Announcement to the public.