

DTV BASICS



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TRANSITION TO DTV

Be more



PBS

Digital TV or DTV is available now in most cities. By June 12, 2009 all high-power TV stations will broadcast exclusively in digital, but many stations will go all-digital before that date. That is why it is important to get ready for DTV today.

WHAT EXACTLY IS DTV?

DTV can refer to either:

- » digital television signals that provide high quality picture and sound;
- » the technology for broadcasting digital signals; or
- » a TV set with a digital tuner that receives over-the-air digital signals.

IS DTV THE SAME THING AS HDTV?

No. HDTV, or high definition television, is the highest quality form of digital television, but not all DTV is high definition.

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

If you receive over-the-air television with an antenna and your TV does not have a built-in digital tuner, you need to take steps to be able to receive DTV.

WHAT DOES DTV LOOK LIKE?

DTV provides crisper pictures and sound.

WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS?

If your TV receives its signal over the air with an antenna, you have three options:

- » Install a digital converter box. A converter box will cost \$40.00 - \$70.00. The Government has offered coupons to reduce the cost of the boxes. To learn more about the coupon program, call 1.888.DTV.2009 or visit www.dtv2009.gov;
- » Replace your TV with a new digital tuner equipped TV. A wide range of DTVs is available starting at \$100.00; or
- » Connect your TV to cable, satellite or another pay service.

WHAT ABOUT DIGITAL CABLE, FIOS, IPTV, ETC.?

These TV sources should not be affected by the current transition to DTV, which affects over the air broadcast television.

IS ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT DTV DIFFERENT?

Another benefit of DTV is program information. Depending on the channel and show, your DTV tuner or digital converter box may display information describing the show and the TV schedule. You also may have read about “multicasting.” That’s another benefit of DTV. It’s a technology that allows a station to send multiple channels at the same time, expanding your viewing choices.

To find out more about DTV—including how-to and troubleshooting tips—watch “Get Ready for Digital TV” on your local PBS station (check your local listings) or visit www.pbs.org/dtv

