

10 DTV MYTHS

AND THE FACTS TO DISPEL THEM



MYTH: I NEED TO BUY A NEW TV.

Fact: Buying a new digital TV is one of three options if you own an analog TV set. You can purchase a new TV that is equipped with a digital tuner or you can keep your current TV and connect it to a converter box or pay TV service (such as cable or satellite).

MYTH: TV WILL NO LONGER BE FREE FOR ME.

Fact: You can still receive free television over the air with an antenna as long as your TV either has a digital tuner or is connected to a converter box.

MYTH: I NEED TO BUY A CONVERTER BOX.

Fact: This is just one of your options if you currently use an antenna with an analog TV. You can also choose to purchase a new digital TV or subscribe to a pay TV service such as cable or satellite.

MYTH: ONE CONVERTER BOX IS ALL I NEED FOR MY TVS.

Fact: If you choose the converter box option, you will need one converter box for each analog TV.

MYTH: THE CHANGE TO DTV IS NOT GOING TO IMPROVE TELEVISION.

Fact: Digital television, or DTV, is a higher quality, more efficient way to transmit TV signals than the current analog TV system. DTV provides better picture and sound quality and take up less space, making it possible for stations to provide more free programming.

MYTH: MY DVD PLAYER, DVR, VCR, CAMCORDER AND VIDEO GAMES WILL NO LONGER BE COMPATIBLE WITH MY TV.

Fact: These electronics will continue to work even if they are analog.

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

MYTH: I HAVE A TV SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE FOR AT LEAST ONE OF MY TVS, SO I WON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.

Fact: The TVs connected to the pay service should be fine but any TVs that use an antenna to get their signal will be affected. These TVs must either:

- » have a built-in digital tuner;
- » get connected to a converter box; or
- » get connected to your pay service.

MYTH: I NEED TO SUBSCRIBE TO CABLE OR SATELLITE TO GET THE BEST TELEVISION PICTURE QUALITY.

Fact: Cable and satellite compress your television signal. The best quality picture comes over the air with an antenna used in conjunction with a digital tuner or a converter box.

MYTH: I CAN'T WATCH HIGH DEFINITION (HD) PROGRAMS BECAUSE MY TV RELIES ON AN ANTENNA.

Fact: You can receive HD programs with an antenna and a TV with a built-in digital tuner or converter box, however they will only be displayed in high definition if you have a HDTV set.

MYTH: I ALREADY HAVE DTV BECAUSE I HAVE DIGITAL CABLE.

Fact: If you subscribe to any kind of cable, you should be ready for the transition. However, DTV and digital cable are not the same thing. DTV refers to a higher quality television signal and the method used to send that signal. Digital cable is purchased as a tier through cable providers, and it offers enhanced viewing options.

