

DTV TRANSITION KEY WORDS TO KNOW



There is a lot of information available about the transition to digital TV (DTV). Below is a list of definitions to help you navigate this information and make sense of what you hear, read and see.

ANALOG TELEVISION

Analog has been the standard broadcast technology since the inception of television.

DIGITAL TELEVISION (DTV)

DTV can refer to:

- » 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.

HIGH-DEFINITION TELEVISION (HDTV)

A form of digital television (DTV) with image resolution that is superior to traditional formats. Not all DTV is high definition. To enjoy the benefits of high definition television, viewers need an HD television set.

DIGITAL CONVERTER BOX

A set-top device that connects to a traditional analog television and enables it to receive digital broadcast signals with an antenna. With a converter box, viewers can enjoy the benefits of DTV including higher quality picture and sound and enhanced viewing options such as enhanced closed captions.

DIGITAL CABLE

A higher-tier pay TV service provided by many cable companies to people who wish to receive more channels and enhanced viewing options.

THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)

A United States government agency charged with regulating all non-federal government use of the radio spectrum (which includes radio and television broadcasting); and all interstate telecommunications (cable, satellite and wire) as well as all international communications that originate or terminate in the United States.

JUNE 12, 2009

The date on which the nation will complete its transition to an all-digital broadcast television system. Many TV stations will move to all-digital broadcasts before June.*

MULTICASTING

Multiple channels of programming delivered simultaneously by a single TV station.

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



* Low-power TV stations are not required to transition to DTV by June 2009. Rules governing this service will be addressed by the FCC in the future.