

Federal Communications Commission

The Digital Television Transition



1-888-CALL-FCC

1-888-TELL-FCC (tty)

E-mail: dtvinfo@fcc.gov

In February of 2009, television will undergo the biggest change since color was introduced in the 1950s. In the Wilmington Area (Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender Counties) this change will occur in September 2008.



The DTV Transition Deadline

Today, most full-power TV stations are broadcasting in two formats:

Digital and Analog

After September 8, 2008, full-power stations **WWAY (ABC), WSFX (FOX), and WECT (NBC)** will broadcast only in digital format. Low-power stations, **WILM (CBS) and W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting)**, will also broadcast only in digital. **WUNJ-TV (PBS)** will continue to broadcast in both Digital and Analog.

Channel Changes

	<u>Current Channel</u>	<u>Digital Channel</u>
ABC	3	46
NBC	6	44
FOX	26	30
PBS*	39	29
CBS	10	40
Trinity	20	51
My Network	47	27*

Why Are Full-Power TV Broadcast Stations Switching to All-Digital?

- Analog spectrum re-allocated for Public Safety
- Digital is more efficient, so broadcast stations can offer:
 - Better TV picture/sound
 - More programming options (multicasting)
- Analog spectrum auctioned for advanced wireless services



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What Do I Need To Be Ready For The DTV Transition?

You have three choices:

1. **Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box.** If you receive good quality reception on VHF channels (2-13) and UHF channels (14-51), your existing antenna should work for digital broadcasts.

OR

2. **Buy a digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner).** You do not need an HDTV. Plus, if you receive good quality reception on VHF and UHF channels, your existing antenna should work for digital broadcasts.

OR

3. **Subscribe to a paid TV service (such as cable or satellite TV).** Contact your provider to see what, if any, equipment you may need. To view full-power broadcast station programming on any analog TV in your home not connected to your paid service, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box.

Will My Analog TV Still Receive Free Over-The-Air Broadcasts?

Yes – Analog TVs will work with a digital-to-analog converter box.



- \$40 – \$70 retail cost
- NTIA administering coupon program
- U.S. households can request up to two \$40 coupons
- Coupons good for eligible boxes
- Apply online, by phone, fax, or mail
- For more information – Visit <http://www.dtv2009.gov>

Or Call:

- 1-888-388-2009
- 1-877-530-2634 (TTY)
- 1-866-495-1161 (Spanish TTY)



DTV or HDTV

- **Transition is from analog to digital, not from analog to high definition**
 - High definition TV (HDTV) is a form of DTV that provides higher resolution pictures and multichannel audio
- **DTV and HDTV sets are not the same**
 - DTV includes standard definition (SDTV) and high definition (HDTV) formats
 - Not necessary to purchase HDTVs in order to view DTV
 - SDTVs are comparably priced to analog TVs
- **Can view HDTV broadcasts on SDTVs and analog TVs connected to digital-to-analog converter boxes, just not in full HDTV quality**

If You Subscribe To a Paid Service Like Cable Or Satellite TV:

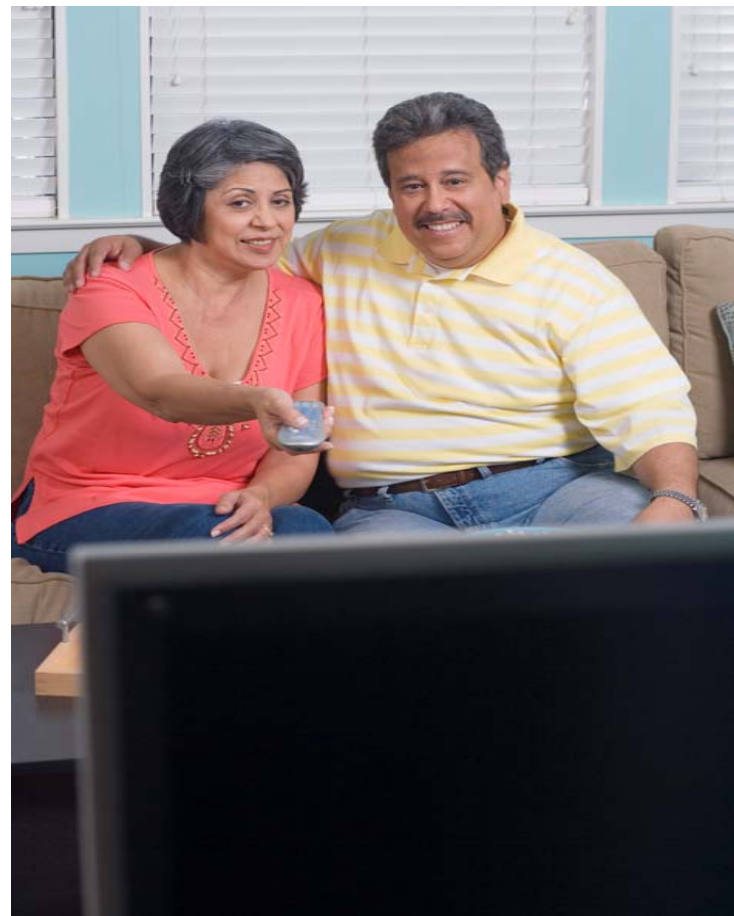
Contact your provider about any additional components, such as a digital set-top box, that you may need to watch digital broadcast programming.



Low Power Television (LPTV)

While the majority of consumers in the U.S. can receive the programming of full-power over-the-air stations, there are three other categories of broadcast TV stations - "low-power," "Class A," and "translator" stations. There is currently no statutory deadline for these stations to convert to digital broadcasting.

Your local low-power stations are: WMYW (My Network), WILM (CBS), and W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting).



DTV Closed Captioning

- Closed captioning displays the audio portion of television programming as text on the TV screen
- FCC rules require that:
 - DTV receivers include closed captioning display capability
 - Digital-to-analog converter boxes pass through closed captions
- Converter box captioning capabilities
 - All converter boxes receive closed caption signals and can pass them through to your TV automatically
 - Some converter boxes will generate captions through the converter box itself, enabling viewers to change the way captions appear on the TV, such as caption size, font (style), caption color, background color, and opacity
- More information available at www.dtv.gov

The FCC is committed to ensuring that Americans are aware of the DTV transition and what they need to do to be ready for the end of full-power analog television broadcasting.



For More Information

- Visit: www.dtv.gov
 - FAQs
 - Publications
 - DTV Outreach Toolkit
 - Glossary
 - Other reference materials and resources
- Call Toll Free
 - 1-888-CALL-FCC (Voice)
(1-888-225-5322)
 - 1, 3, 4 (Wilmington information)
 - 1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY)
- E-mail: DTVinfo@fcc.gov

The screenshot shows the FCC website's digital TV transition page. At the top left is the FCC logo (Federal Communications Commission). The main heading is 'THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION' with the subtitle 'What You Need To Know About DTV'. A search bar is in the top right, and a link for 'En Español' is on the right. A left sidebar lists navigation options: DTV Home, FAQs, What is DTV?, Publications, Glossary, Podcasts & Video, Outreach Toolkit, Transition Partners, What's on DTV?, In the News, DTV Deputy Quiz, and FCC Home. The main content area features a large text block: 'On February 17, 2009 all full-power broadcast television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. Digital broadcasting will allow stations to offer improved picture and sound quality and additional channels. Find out more about whether or not you will be impacted by the digital TV (DTV) transition. [Go now.](#)' To the right is a 'CONSUMER CORNER' section with links to 'Start Here: DTV Basics', 'Converter Box Coupon Program', 'How to Install a Converter Box', 'DTV Shoppers Guide', 'What You Should Know', and 'Glossary'. Below this is a 'Become a DTV Deputy. Take the DTV Quiz now' button. At the bottom, there are four columns of 'Recent Releases': 'FCC releases agenda for April 1, 2008, DTV Consumer Education Workshop focusing on low-income consumers. [Download PDF](#).'; 'Materials government agencies and community groups can use to conduct DTV awareness programs. [Go now.](#)'; 'Our library of documents designed to help answer your DTV questions. [Go now.](#) [\(En Español\)](#)'; and 'Read about the rules, regulations and developments relating to DTV. [Go now.](#)' A link for 'How are LPTV/Class A/Translator Stations Affected by the DTV Transition?' is also present. A footer note states: '* You will need the free [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) plug-in to view and print these files.' At the very bottom, a countdown timer shows '309.14.09.03' (Days, Hours, Minutes, Seconds) for the 'DTV Transition' deadline on 'February 17, 2009'.

