

We're Going Digital

At midnight on Feb. 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital.

Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options, and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

The transition to digital broadcasting will improve quality, but it won't require you to buy a new television. Analog-to-digital converter boxes are available for purchase.

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program offering discounts to households that wish to keep using their analog TV sets.



Digital Converter Box



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Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

*"To protect and improve
the health and environment
of the people of Colorado"*

The Transition From Analog to Digital Television Broadcasting

Facts and Guidance



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Your Analog Television Is Likely NOT Going Extinct

The nationwide switch from analog to digital broadcasting will occur Feb. 17, 2009 but the transition does not necessarily mean that you must buy a new TV. This brochure explains how you can go digital without buying a new TV and without creating electronic waste.

Will I need to purchase a converter box in order to watch television?

You only need to buy an analog-to-digital converter box if:

- You receive broadcasts through antennae, **AND**
- You have an older TV without a built-in digital tuner.

How much does a digital converter box cost, and where can I get one?

- Every U.S. household can receive up to two \$40 coupons toward the purchase of converter boxes
- Manufacturers estimate that converter box costs will range from \$40 to \$70
- For information on the coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY)

Who will the digital transition affect?

The nationwide switch will affect anyone who receives broadcasts with an antenna on a TV that doesn't contain a built-in digital tuner. All others should immediately be able to receive digital broadcasts.

How can I tell if my TV set has a built-in digital tuner?

- Check your owner's manual or the manufacturer's website
- A digital tuner is often called an ATSC tuner. Look for a label that refers to *ATSC* or *Digital* tuners. TVs labeled *HD Built-In* or *Integrated HDTV* also should include digital tuners.

Electronic Waste Health Concerns

- E-waste – such as color TVs – contains large amounts of lead.
- Cathode ray tubes from color televisions consistently exceed the hazardous waste regulatory limit for lead.
- E-waste contains small amounts of other potentially harmful metals.
- The metals are not a concern while TVs are in use, but if disposed of improperly, harmful chemicals can leach out and contaminate groundwater and soil.

In 2005, nearly 20 million pounds of hazardous electronic waste ended up in landfills, instead of being disassembled and recycled for new products.



Televisions brought to a waste transfer facility for disposal

If It Must Be In With The New, Recycle The Old

- If you plan to get rid of your old TV set, you may send it to a landfill. However, it would be better to recycle the TV at an electronics recycling facility.

Where can I recycle my TV and other electronic waste?

- Check for nearby recycling facilities at: <http://www.mygreenelectronics.org>
- View a map of Colorado electronics recyclers on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's site: www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/dtv/

How much will recycling cost?

- Depending on the facility, recycling costs range from **free** to a small processing fee.
- Recycling fees are less than what it costs to properly dispose of electronics as hazardous wastes.

Where can I find more information on electronic waste?

For information on electronic waste regulations and advice on how to best recycle and dispose of the waste, look through the Department of Public Health and Environment's website: www.cdphe.state.co.us/hm/electronics

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