

Q & A Questions for our website

Q: Will I need a special antenna to receive DTV over-the-air?

A: If you are able to receive News 13 on your antenna now, the same antenna generally will work to receive News 13 DTV. You should not have to purchase a new antenna that is marked as “digital ready” or “HD ready.”

Q: Will my VCR, DVD player, camcorder, video games console still work with a DTV receiver?

A: Yes. Digital television sets are “backward compatible,” meaning existing analog equipment (VCRs, DVD players, camcorders, video games, etc.) will work on digital TV sets.

Q: I subscribe to cable. Do I have to purchase a DTV set to see News 13 after Feb. 17, 2009?

A: No. Cable and Satellite operators will provide the same service as you have been seeing for a few more years, and our Engineers are working with the cable companies to insure you will still have as good quality as we have been providing you for the past 54 years.

Q: Cable and satellite operators offer a digital package. Is this the same as HDTV?

A: No. “Digital” and high definition programming are not the same. If you want to watch HDTV programming on cable or satellite, you will need to subscribe to your providers HDTV package and view the programming on an HDTV set. You may also need a set-top box or new satellite dish to view HDTV programming.

Q: I notice HDTV is transmitting “Dolby 5.1 channels of audio.” Will my present Surround Sound System work with this, and what is 5.1 anyway?

A: Yes. Dolby 5.1 means that it is designed to meet Dolby Surround Sound requirements for your equipment. The “.1” is the area of the digital signal that News 13 transmits special information to your DTV set in the form of “TV Guide” type information and to tell you what channel you are viewing. (Channel 13.1 or 13.2)

Q: I have been hearing about my television programs on News 13 going away on Feb. 17, 2009. What must I do to continue to see News 13 after this date? I have an antenna on top of my house.

A: You will need to at least have a converter box attached to your old TV, or a new DTV set. If you are using either of these devices to watch the DTV signal we are presently transmitting, you will also need to “rescan” your channel settings, as many stations (including News 13) will be changing to our permanent channel assignment given to us by the Federal Communications Commission on this date.

Q: I am looking to purchase a DTV, but I am confused by the meaning of 720 P, 1080 I, and 1080 P. What is all this about and which one should I select?

A: The I means Interlaced scanning and P means Progressive scanning. The numbers means the lines that are seen on the face of your TV set. All of this is very technical, but unless you are a “techie” an easy way to remember this is: I means “inexpensive” and P means “pricier” Here is an example, your old TV (with its poorer quality) is transmitting 465 I (interlaced). The new DTV sets look much better in P (progressive scan). It is really is not necessary to go the extra expense of 1080 P unless you are a serious home game player. In over the air DTV, 720 P is a very good choice to view DTV.

Proper Disposal of Analog TVs

1. Check out the DHEC recycling map to see whether electronics recycling is offered in your community. Go to <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/lwm/recycle/counties.htm>
2. Be aware that while some counties and towns accept electronics at their landfills, most do not.
3. If your area doesn't offer electronics collection, contact your local recycling coordinator to determine (or even encourage) whether the town will hold a collection event (much like Christmas tree recycling). Whether it's a one-time event or held regularly during the DTV changeover period, such an effort can go a long way toward preventing potentially hazardous waste from reaching our landfills.
4. Some popular manufacturers are already green-conscious. For instance, Samsung, Sony and LG have their own electronics "take-back" programs.