

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR TV CONSUMERS:



To help clear spectrum for use by public safety officials, Congress passed legislation requiring all full-power broadcast TV stations to end their analog transmissions and switch to a digital format by February 17, 2009. This guide to the digital television transition will help you understand how it will affect you.



Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack

Serving the 45th District of California



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

*Public Document
Official Business*

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M.C.
PRSRT STD

About the Digital TV Transition

Q: What is the digital television transition?

A: In order to clear spectrum for public safety usage, Congress passed a law that requires full-power broadcast TV stations in the U.S. to end all analog broadcast transmissions and switch to an exclusively digital format.

Q: How does this affect me?

- A:**
1. If you get TV from a cable, satellite, or telephone company, your provider will handle the transition for you. I encourage you to contact your service provider with any questions.
 2. If you are using an analog television manufactured after March 1, 2007, or a digital television, you do not need to take any action.
 3. If you are using an older analog television with an over-the-air antenna ("rabbit ears" or rooftop), after February 17, 2009, you must:
 - a) subscribe to a cable, satellite, or telephone provider for TV service;
 - b) purchase a digital television; or
 - c) obtain a converter box.

**Converter boxes are expected to cost between \$40 and \$70. The government is making available up to two \$40 coupons per household for those who want help purchasing the converters.

**Because not all low-power broadcasters are converting to digital, a number of converter boxes pass through analog programming as well as convert digital programming. For a list of all coupon-eligible converter boxes, including those that pass through analog signals, please visit www.ntiadtv.gov/cecb_list.cfm. If you are unsure whether any of the broadcast channels you watch are low-power, please contact your local stations.

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Q: How do I request coupons from the TV Converter Box Coupon Program?

- A:**
1. Apply online at www.dtv2009.gov
(You can also download a coupon application here.)
 2. Mail the coupon application to:
P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000
 3. Fax the coupon application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2
(1-800-388-4632)
 4. Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline at
[1-888-DTV-2009](tel:1-888-DTV-2009) (1-888-388-2009), TTY 1-877-530-2634



CONSUMER ALERT:

If you do shop for a new digital TV, remember, you **do not** need a "high definition" TV (HDTV) to view free over-the-air digital programming. An HDTV is only necessary if you want to view digital programming in "high definition."

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