

Federal Communications Commission

Wilmington, North Carolina Area Digital Television Transition



Visit
DTV.gov

**THE DIGITAL TV
TRANSITION**

What You Need To Know About DTV
Wilmington, North Carolina Area Digital Transition:
New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, Bladen, and Columbus Counties
First in Flight, First in Digital



1-888-CALL-FCC
1-888-TELL-FCC (tty)
E-mail: dtvinfo@fcc.gov

On September 8, 2008, television in the Wilmington Area will undergo the biggest change since color was introduced in the 1950s.



The DTV Transition Deadline

Today, many TV stations are broadcasting in two formats: **Digital and Analog**

Beginning at noon on September 8, 2008, these five Wilmington Area stations will broadcast only in digital:

- WWAY (ABC)
 - WECT (NBC)
 - WSFX (FOX)
 - WILM (CBS)
 - W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting)
- WUNJ-TV (PBS) will continue to broadcast in both digital and analog.
- WMYW (My Network) will continue to broadcast only in analog.

Why Are 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 Should I Do To Be Ready?

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).** If you receive local broadcast stations through a paid provider such as cable or satellite TV, any TVs connected to your paid service are already prepared for the DTV transition.
 - Cable companies are not required to switch to digital. For voluntary business reasons, cable companies may switch some or all of their channels from analog to digital.
 - If you have an analog TV that does not receive local broadcast stations through your paid provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts.



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**

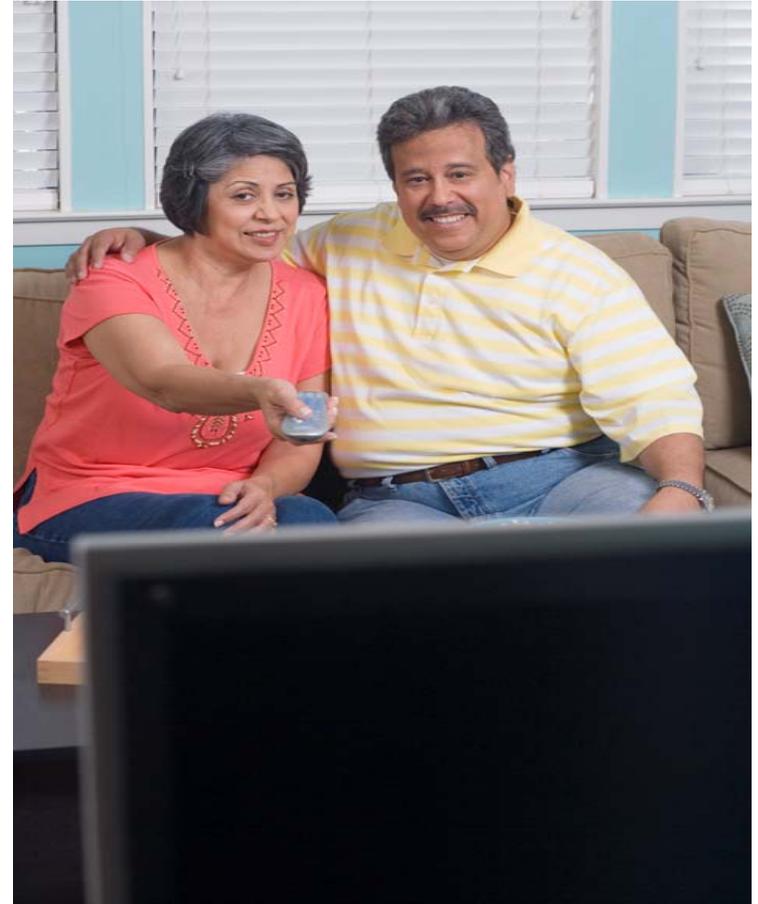
Low Power Television (LPTV)

Only full-power broadcast TV stations are required to transition to all-digital broadcasting. The three other categories of broadcast TV stations – "low-power," "Class A," and "translator" stations – are not required to transition at this time.

However, a low-power station and a translator station in the Wilmington area will switch to all-digital broadcasting on September 8, 2008:

- WILM (CBS)
- W51CW (Trinity Broadcasting)

Another low-power station in the Wilmington area, WMYW (My Network), will continue broadcasting only in analog.



Digital-to-Analog Converter Boxes and Analog Broadcasts

- Some full-power broadcast stations (like WUNJ) will continue to broadcast in analog until February 17, 2009. Also, low-power, Class A, and translator TV stations can continue to broadcast in analog after February 17, 2009.
- Consumers who want to view programming from these stations should look for digital-to-analog converter boxes that have “analog pass-through” capability. Consumers must turn off the power to these boxes and tune their TV sets to the analog channels they want to watch.
- Consumers who do not have analog pass-through boxes can use an “A/B switch” and/or a “signal splitter” and some extra cable to route the analog signals around the converter box in order to watch analog channels.

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

Cable Subscribers – Cable companies are not required to switch their systems to digital. If your cable company makes the voluntary business decision to switch some or all of its channels to digital, it may notify you that you need to get “digital cable” equipment. This is not the same as a digital-to-analog converter box. Talk to your provider about equipment options that may be available to you.

Satellite TV Subscribers – If you do not get local broadcast stations through your satellite provider, you will need a digital-to-analog converter box to watch digital broadcasts on any analog TV in your home.



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

For More Information

- Visit: www.dtv.gov/wilmington
 - 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 DTV.gov website page for Wilmington, North Carolina. The page features the FCC logo and navigation links for Search and DTV Sitemap. The main heading is "THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION" with a sub-heading "What You Need To Know About DTV". A red banner below the heading reads "Wilmington, North Carolina Area Digital Transition: New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, Bladen, and Columbus Counties First in Flight, First in Digital". The page is divided into several sections: "DTV Home" with links to FAQs, What Is DTV?, Publications, Glossary, Outreach Toolkit, Transition Partners, What's on DTV?, In the News, DTV Deputy Quiz, and FCC Home; a main content area with text about the national DTV transition on February 17, 2009, and the Wilmington, North Carolina area transition on September 8, 2008; a "CONSUMER CORNER" section with links to Start Here: DTV Basics, Converter Box Coupon Program, How to Install a Converter Box, DTV Shoppers Guide, and Glossary; a "Recent Releases" section with a link to Download PDF; an "Outreach Toolkit" section with a link to Go now; a "Publications" section with a link to Go now (En Español); and a "News & Regulatory Information" section with a link to Go now. A yellow star icon and a call to action "Become a DTV Deputy. Take the DTV Quiz now" are also visible.

