

## **The Digital Television Transition Is Coming: Are You Ready?**

### **What Is the Digital TV Transition:**

On February 17, 2009, all full-power TV stations in the United States will cease analog broadcasting and transition to broadcasting solely in a digital format, also known as digital television or "DTV."

This transition to digital broadcasts will provide multiple video sources from many broadcasters, clearer pictures, and better sound quality. It will also free up airwaves for emergency first responders and allow for new wireless communications services.

### **Who Is Affected:**

If you subscribe to cable or satellite, your access to broadcast channels should not change. However, if you currently rely on over-the-air signals via an analog television and an antenna ("rabbit ears"), your television will not work after February 17, 2009.

There are three ways for you to avoid losing your television service:

1. Connect your existing analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box;
2. Buy a new digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner); or
3. Subscribe to a pay TV service (such as cable TV or satellite).

### **How to Get a Digital-to-Analog Converter Box:**

If you decide to buy a converter box, you will need one for each over-the-air TV set in your house.

Each American household can now request up to two \$40 coupons from the government toward the purchase of approved converter boxes. Each box is expected to cost between \$40 and \$70. Converter boxes will require a separate remote control and power source.

Here's three ways to get your coupons:

1. Apply online at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov);
2. Call the 24-hour DTV converter box hotline at 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009), TTY 1-877-530-2634; or
3. Download a PDF copy of the coupon application ([here](#)), and either mail the coupon application to P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000 or fax the completed application to 1-877-DTV-4ME2 (1-877-388-4632).

Floridians can redeem converter box coupons at a variety of local electronics retailers, as well as national retailers such as Best Buy, K-Mart, Radio Shack, Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Sears.

Note for Viewers of Low-Power Television Stations: If you watch over-the-air television broadcast by Class A or "low-power" television stations, please note that some of these stations will NOT switch to all-digital broadcasts on February 17, 2009.

If you regularly watch these stations, you should purchase a converter box with an "analog pass-through" feature.