Consumer Tips

for DTV Reception on VHF TV Channels 2-13

If you are having trouble receiving free, local over-the-air television with an indoor antenna for TV stations broadcasting on channels 2-13, we recommend you take the following steps.

Make sure you know the actual channels being broadcast in your area.

Some stations are broadcasting on channels that are different from what you see on your TV set. Call your local TV station(s) to get the correct channel(s) that they are using. This information is also available on the following websites:

- Federal Communications Commission: http://www.dtv.gov/
- National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)/ Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) Antenna Web: www.antennaweb.org.
- If you still have questions, call 1-888-CALL-FCC (voice) or 1-888-TELL-FCC (TTY) for assistance.

Do I need a new indoor or outdoor antenna?

Chances are, if you used an indoor antenna before the DTV switch, the antenna used for analog signals may still work.

1. Go to www.dtv.gov/maps/
2. Enter your address and/or zip code into the box labeled Enter Location. Click "Go!"
3. A color-coded list of channels appears below the box. If the signal is Strong (green), a simple indoor antenna will most likely work. For Moderate (yellow) signals, an indoor antenna may work. Otherwise, consider an outdoor antenna.

4. Look under the Band column of the search results to find out whether you need a combined VHF/UHF antenna or in a few selected markets a UHF-only antenna. It will also indicate whether you need an antenna capable of receiving high VHF (channels 7-13), low VHF (channels 2-6), or both.
5. For information on aiming your antenna, click a station's call sign to find the location of the broadcast tower relative to your home.
6. Visit www.antennaweb.org and click "Choose an Antenna" for an alternate method of determining signal strength.

Make sure the antenna is capable of receiving all the over-the-air DTV stations in your area.

Basic:

- Even if an antenna is labeled HDTV or DTV, it may not be designed to receive all digital channels.
- Check the package to be sure it receives ALL VHF (2-13 or 7-13) and UHF (14-69) channels in your area.
- The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) has adopted performance specifications for indoor antennas. Antennas meeting or exceeding these specifications will display the following logo.

Advanced:

- Directional antenna: receives weaker signals, but may require frequent adjustment.
- Multi-directional antenna: minimal adjustment, but will not receive as many weak signals.

Older model directional indoor antenna

Newer model, multi-directional indoor antenna

Avoid placing an indoor antenna on top of (or near) the TV set or in close proximity to other electrical devices.

This includes digital video recorders, DVD players, computers, cable boxes, modems and even compact fluorescent light transformers (CFL). Electrical devices in the home may cause interference to TV reception.

Continued on reverse

Continued from front

Try repositioning and moving the antenna to different locations in the room.

- Place the antenna in or near a window, if possible. Placing the antenna higher may also help.

- After each move, step back away from the antenna and wait a few seconds to allow the TV set or converter box to retune. In some cases, you may have to rescan your TV set or converter box after each move. You may need to add channels manually if they were not detected in the initial scan.

- For antennas with telescoping "rabbit ears," experiment with various lengths and positions. Pull the antenna out all the way to receive VHF channel 2 and shorten it to receive VHF channel 13. The remaining channels are best received at antenna lengths somewhere in between.

- You may need to purchase a longer connecting wire to allow for optimal antenna placement.

Amplified VHF antennas (channels 2-13) may harm reception.

- Amplified VHF antennas may amplify the interference from the electrical devices in your home.

- If you live close to a TV station tower, but still cannot receive the station, try using a non-amplified VHF antenna.

FM Interference may be an issue for the reception of DTV channel 6.

- If your antenna is able to receive FM signals, it may be receiving interfering FM signals

- Try using an indoor antenna that does not receive FM signals.

How do I connect an indoor antenna to a converter box and an analog TV?

You will need:

- Converter Box
- 75-ohm coaxial cables (2)
- Analog TV
- Antenna
- Composite A/V cable (OPTIONAL)

1. Plug the ends of one coaxial cable into the IN jack on the Converter Box and the OUT jack on the antenna.

Note: Some antennas have a built-in coaxial cable.

2. Plug the ends of the other coaxial cable into the OUT jack on the Converter Box and the IN jack on the analog TV.
   OR
   If your analog TV has Composite inputs, connect the red, white, and yellow ends of a Composite A/V cable into the OUT jacks on the Converter Box and the matching IN jacks on the analog TV.