



## **Analog to Digital Conversion FAQs**

### **What is the digital television transition?**

On February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations in the United States will stop broadcasting in analog and switch to 100% digital broadcasting. Digital broadcasting promises to provide a clearer picture and more programming options and will free up airwaves for use by emergency responders.

Consumers have a variety of options. Options to explore include:

1. Connect to cable, satellite or other pay service. Muzak only utilizes/provides Dish Network™ programming. All of their programming is digital.
2. Purchase a television with a digital tuner.
3. Keep your existing analog TV and purchase a TV converter box. A converter box plugs into your TV and will keep it working after Feb. 17, 2009.

### **Why is the digital transition happening?**

Broadcasters are transitioning to digital to provide important benefits to consumers. Because digital broadcasting is more efficient, broadcasters require less of the airwaves to provide a better television viewing experience. Once the digital television (DTV) transition is completed, some television channels will be turned over to fire and police departments for emergency communication and others will be auctioned to companies to provide new wireless services.

### **What is a converter box?**

A TV converter box is a new product available in early 2008 that plugs into your analog TV and, along with your antenna, will keep your analog set working after February 17, 2009.

### **Does the DTV transition affect the TV sets connected to satellite service?**

The DTV transition will not affect satellite TV subscribers who receive their local TV stations through their satellite dishes. Satellite TV service is a digital service and all satellite subscribers must have a set-top box connected to their TVs to receive the satellite-delivered programming. As a result, there should be no change in service for satellite subscribers unless the local TV stations are not provided by the satellite carrier. If you subscribe to a satellite TV service through Muzak, this will all be taken care of for you.

### **Can I use the converter along with a cable box?**

No. Converter boxes from this program work only with over-the-air broadcast television signals, not cable or satellite service. Muzak commercial television uses satellite receivers so no converter box will be required.

### **How do I know if I have an analog or digital TV?**

What you need to know is whether your TV set has something called a "digital tuner" already built in. If it does, your TV set will work after February 17, 2009. The best way to determine whether your TV set has a digital tuner built in is to consult your owner's manual. If that's not possible, you may be able to look up information about your TV set on the manufacturer's Web site. Or, you can take an up-close look at your TV set. In any case, you're trying to find



out if your set has an input connection labeled “digital input” or “ATSC” (for Advanced Television Systems Committee, which is the DTV format).

By law, beginning March 1, 2007, all television reception devices (including TVs, VCRs, DVDs, etc.) imported into the U.S. or shipped in interstate commerce must contain a digital tuner. Retailers may continue to sell analog-only devices from existing inventory, but must prominently display on or near the analog-only device a Consumer Alert label.

**I’m a current satellite customer. Will I be affected by the transition?**

No, with Muzak all of our Dish Network™ programming is digital.

**Will I need to buy a new television after February 19th, 2009?**

No, you will not need to get rid of your analog TV after February 17, 2009. If you receive your TV programs for free using an antenna—that is, your TV set is not connected to cable, satellite, or other pay TV service—you can purchase a TV converter box and plug it into your existing TV set to continue to receive TV programs after February 17, 2009.

**If I want a new TV, will I have to buy a High Definition TV (HDTV) to watch digital broadcast television after the transition?**

No. It is important to understand that the DTV transition is a transition from analog broadcasting to digital broadcasting. It is not a transition from analog broadcasting to High Definition broadcasting. Digital broadcasting allows for High Definition broadcasts, but High Definition is not required, and you do not need to buy a HDTV to watch digital TV. A Standard Definition DTV (which is simply a TV with an internal digital tuner), or a digital-to-analog converter box hooked to an analog TV, is all that is required to continue watching over-the-air broadcast television.

Digital broadcast television includes Standard Definition (SD) and High Definition (HD) formats. You can watch High Definition programming on a Standard Definition DTV (or on an analog TV hooked to a digital-to-analog converter box), but it won’t be in full High Definition Quality. Millions of viewers are simply taking the extra step and going to HD digital programming for it truly is an amazing improvement in clarity, sound, and viewing experience. Some people compare the difference of vinyl records to compact discs. It is often said once you’ve experienced high definition that you simply can’t go back!

**What will happen to the old analog TVs that will be replaced by DTVs? Will there be an effort to recycle them?**

There are recycling programs for those who choose to discard old analog TVs or other old electronic products (but remember, analog TVs can continue to be used after the transition). One such program is [myGreenElectronics.org](http://www.mygreenelectronics.org). Through this program you can learn about disposal options and locate recycling programs near you. Go to <http://www.mygreenelectronics.org> for more information.

Reference: <http://www.dtv.gov/>