



**DIGITAL  
Television NOW**

**Q:** I watch **WLJT** on an older TV with an antenna. Will the upcoming digital switch require me to buy a new set to keep watching?

**A:** Definitely not - an inexpensive set-top converter box will enable your current set to display all four **WLJT** digital channels. The box will cost only \$10-\$30 when you use a discount coupon. No one will have to buy a new set unless they choose to.

**Q:** I'm confused - what's the difference between analog, digital and high-definition TV?

**A:** *Analog* is the broadcast system we've all grown up watching. *Digital* is the much more efficient method we're all switching to by February 2009. *High definition (HD)* is merely the "high end" of digital TV, so just like the "high end" of any other product, it's an entirely optional switch for everyone. *"Regular" (or standard definition)* digital is itself already superior to analog.

**Q: How does the coupon program for digital converter boxes work?**

**A:** Digital-to-analog set-top boxes allow any working analog TV and antenna to switch to digital easily and cheaply. The \$40 discount coupons - up to two per household - will bring the cost down to as little as \$10 per TV.

**Coupons can be ordered now at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.** They'll be mailed in late February or early March, when boxes are expected to be available in stores. After connecting the box between your antenna and TV, you'll get more **WXYZ** digital channels - for free, as always.

**Q: I'm not sure if my TV is digital. How can I tell?**

**A:** It's an ATSC tuner that makes a TV digital. If your TV lacks one, it's analog. A set that's more than several years old is unlikely to be digital. Check your owner's manual, the TV itself, the store where you bought it, or the manufacturer's Website for evidence that your set includes an ATSC tuner. If your set is in fact analog *and you use an antenna to watch*, a converter box will allow your TV to continue working after Feb 17, 2009. You'll also get *additional WXYZ* digital channels. A \$40 discount coupon will bring your cost down to as little as \$10. **[Apply for coupons online](http://www.dtv2009.gov)** at [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov), by calling 1-888-388-2009.

**Q: Will my old TV antenna still work with a new digital converter box?**

**A:** If you currently get a good signal with your existing antenna and analog TV, you will probably get one as good or better when you connect a digital converter box. However, in order to be sure you get all local channels, you need to have a combination VHF (channels 2-13) and UHF (14 and up) antenna. If

you already get channels in both these ranges well, then your antenna is probably just fine. You do *not* need a special HD or digital antenna, just a good VHF/UHF one. For useful information about antennas and reception, visit [antennaweb.org](http://antennaweb.org). You'll get a free customized report on the distance and direction of your local transmitters, as well as advice on the best placement and style of antenna for your location.

You can still apply for \$40 discount coupons for converter boxes online at [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov), or by calling 1-888-388-2009.

**Q:** *I can't find digital converter boxes in any stores, so what good are the coupons I applied for?*

**A:** Both coupons and boxes are imminent. The latest word is that coupons will begin to be mailed on February 19; boxes are already in some consumer electronic stores. You have 90 days after *date of issue* before coupons expire, so there's time to make an informed decision before purchase. Be sure to ask about a store's customer support before you buy. Some stores are offering special digital TV hotlines and in-store help.

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**Q:** *I have a set-top box from my cable company. Do I also need to get one of the new digital converter boxes?*

**A:** If you have paid cable service, you're already digitally prepared. The cable service may or may not involve a set-top box, but either way it will continue to provide a signal that an analog TV can properly display. So, you don't need a converter box unless you drop your paid service, or have other analog TV sets that are *not* connected to cable. Converter boxes and cable boxes are *not* the same thing, though: converter boxes convert broadcast digital signals to analog using an ATSC tuner; cable boxes use QAM tuners to decode cable signals.

You can apply for \$40 discount coupons for converters online at [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov), or by calling 1-888-388-2009. Converter boxes are now widely available in stores.

**Q:** *There are 45 digital-to-analog converter boxes that I can buy with a coupon. How do I decide which one is right for me?*

**A:** To be coupon-eligible, boxes need to meet government specifications. They'll all have closed captioning, a remote control, picture formatting, parental controls, RF and audio/visual outputs, signal strength indicators and more. You should choose other options that best match the ways you use your TV. The coupon program was designed to cover just basic boxes, though, so the range of optional features is limited.

You can order \$40 discount coupons for converters online at [dtv2009.gov](http://dtv2009.gov), or by calling 1-888-388-2009. Converter boxes are now widely available in stores.