

DO I HAVE TO CHANGE TO DIGITAL TV?

After February 17, 2009, you will need to purchase a **digital to analog set-top converter box** to receive and view over the air digital programming with **an analog TV**. Without this box, the analog TV will not be able to pick up any digital TV stations.

Between January 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009 the NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) will have available two coupons, worth \$40 each, to offset the costs for eligible conversion boxes. Each card is imprinted with a 90-day expiration date and is not replaceable if lost or stolen.

These converter boxes are not intended for analog TVs connected to a **paid provider**, such as cable, internet or satellite TV service. Contact your current provider to find out what you will need.

INTERNET SERVICES

Broadband Service is faster than traditional dial up service which allows you to connect to the internet via a cable or DSL modem. Broadband greatly reduces the amount of time it takes to receive (download) and send (upload) information.

Many wireless phone companies now offer internet services.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SERVICES

CURRENT SERVICE PROVIDERS

Comcast

1-888-266-2278

www.comcast.com

AT&T

(in limited areas)

1-800-288-2020

<http://uverse1.att.com>

Satellite TV

Direct TV

1-888-777-2454

www.directv.com

Dish Network

1-888-825-2557

www.dishnetwork.com

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD

Serving: Birmingham, Beverly Hills,

Bingham Farms & Franklin

PO Box 165

Birmingham, Michigan 48012

Cable comments or complaints

Phone: 248-336-9445

CHOOSING A TV PROVIDER



How to Choose Television And Other Wireless Services

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Bingham Farms & Franklin

Tel: 248-336-9445

www.birminghamareacableboard.org

TYPES OF TV SERVICE

The communications industry is making significant technological advances that result in more choices for consumers, changing TV as we know it today. These new technologies have allowed cable television and telephone companies to offer more than their traditional services.

As a result, traditional analog TV will disappear on February 17, 2009 with only digital TV (DTV) available thereafter.

Analog TV is a traditional service, less efficient and a lower quality system that uses radio frequency waves to transmit and display pictures and sound.

Cable TV provides television through radio frequency signals transmitted through fiber optic cables or coaxial cables. Cable TV providers currently use set top modems to provide upgraded digital channels.



Digital TV is an advanced broadcasting technology which enables broadcasters to offer television with movie-quality picture and sound. It can also offer multiple programming choices, called multicasting, and other interactive capabilities.

Converting to DTV will free up portions of the scarce and valuable broadcast spectrum, which then can be used for other important services such as public and safety services (police and fire departments, emergency rescue), and advanced wireless services. DTV comes in three levels of picture quality.

1. Standard Definition TV (SDTV) is basic digital television transmission that may be displayed with fewer than 480 progressively scanned lines (480p) in 16x9 widescreen or 4x3 display. 480 interlaced (480i) is the quality of today's analog TV system.

2. Enhanced Definition TV (EDTV) is a step up from analog TV and SDTV. EDTV provides better picture quality than SDTV, but not as good as HDTV.

3. High Definition (HDTV) potentially offers a much better picture quality than standard television. HD's greater clarity means the picture on screen can be less blurred and less fuzzy. HD also brings other benefits such as smoother motion, richer and more natural colors, surround sound, and the ability to allow a variety of input devices to work together.

IPTV (Internet Protocol TV) is a standardized method of transporting information in packets of data. These packets of data are then reassembled into information when they reach the destination. The TV signal is distributed via a broadband connection.



Satellite TV is television delivered by way of communications satellites, as compared to conventional terrestrial television and cable television. Satellite TV offers similar programming packages as cable providers.



MAKING A CHOICE

Currently, there are two major competing providers in the Birmingham Area: Comcast and AT&T. AT&T is currently available in limited areas.

Both offer cable TV, telephone and Internet services, often bundled into a package. By ordering all three services from one provider you can save money and consolidate your bills.

CONFUSED?

You're not the only one. To get a better idea of what's going on, log on to one of these websites.

www.dtvanswers.com

www.ntia.doc.gov

www.dtv2009.gov

or

contact the FCC for a DTV information packet at

www.dtvtransition.org

or

1-888-CALL-FCC
(1-888-225-5322)