

1 The US, like the rest of the world, is converting to an all digital system that provides higher quality pictures and sound and makes a much more efficient use of the available electronic spectrum (i.e. available TV channels.)

2 On February 17, 2009, all analog full power TV broadcast channels (CET, WCPO, WLWT, WKRC, WXIX, etc.) in the United States will cease operation. The stations and programs will still exist, but on new digital channels. Some low power TV stations like local channel 38 will continue to be available on your old analog TV just as they are now.

3 Eventually you will have to buy a new digital TV since analog sets are no longer manufactured, but you may still be able to watch most of your favorite programs on your old analog set.

4 There are two ways to use your old analog set after February 2009.



You can get an inexpensive digital converter that will capture the digital signals off-the-air and convert them to signals your analog TV can display. You may be eligible

for two \$40 coupons from the Federal Government to offset the cost of the DTV Converter box. You can apply for the coupons on line at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-888-388-2009. Most of the converters will retail for about \$60.

Your second option is to subscribe to a cable or satellite service. The cable and satellite set top boxes already convert digital signals to analog signals. If all of your TVs are connected to cable or satellite, you need do nothing.



5 Your VCR and DVD player will still work with your analog TV, as will the tapes and DVDs that you now have. You will be able to play back older recordings from your VCR or DVD player on most new digital TV sets. Using a set top DTV converter attached to your VCR, you will be able to record digital programs, however they will not be in HD. Without an external DTV converter you will not be able to record with a VCR.

6 If you keep your old TV and use a converter, cable or satellite you will not enjoy the vastly superior picture and sound of High Definition TV, nor will you have a wide movie-like screen, but you will be able to watch all the programs that you new receive. This is similar to

when color television was introduced and you could watch the color programs in black and white.

7 TV stations will continue to broadcast through the air, and using an antenna you will still be able to get all the local stations on a digital TV without cable or satellite.



8 The new digital TVs come in many sizes. The sharpness of the picture is generally a product of screen size and resolution. TVs are available in CRT (picture tube), LCD, Plasma and DLP. Shop with your eyes and decide what looks the best to you.

9 Digital over-the-air channels may provide more than one program at the same time. For example, CET's digital channel has both High Definition Programs and a separate CET World Channel. This is called multi-casting.

10 Still have questions? For more information call the CET TechInfo line 513-345-6512 or e-mail your question to techinfo@cetconnect.org, or visit our TechInfo Blog cet-techinfo.blogspot.com.



Don't let this happen to you.

There is a lot of misinformation about Digital TV and what the new system means to the average viewer. CET is committed to providing our viewers with the most comprehensive and unbiased information so you can make wise choices. The following should provide a simple guide to your options for making the conversion to digital broadcasting.

Did you know CET already multicasts on digital channels?

In addition to the CET channel airing for more than 53 years, **CET** offers **CETHD** and **CET WORLD**.

CETHD brings you your favorite shows in HD when available. Shows like *Nature*, *Nova*, *Masterpiece* and many others are recorded in HD. Older shows such as *Keeping Up Appearances*, *Lawrence Welk*, *As Time Goes By* and others are not available in HD. You can still watch these shows on **CET HD**, digital channel 48.1, however they do not have the clean crisp detail of true HD programs. You may also notice grey bars on the sides of your HD set. These are called "Barn Doors" and indicate the program has been recorded in standard definition.

CET WORLD offers you the best of PBS programming. From *Tavis Smiley* to *Frontline* and special documentaries, such as Ken Burns' *The War*, **CET WORLD** offers you a second look at quality programs.

For more information and a complete schedule of CET's digital channels, visit CETconnect.org.

Cut Through the Static

10 Things You Should Know about the switch to Digital TV

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