

## DTV Conversion

The switch to all Digital Television comes on February 17, 2009. So what does that mean to us? Boy, this was a hard one to research, not because there wasn't any information out there but maybe because there was too much and the articles contradicted each other and they used the word 'may' an awful lot. I guess to protect the back part of the body, under the belt. They all read as if they were legal documents. I went on all the web sites, wrote emails, made numerous telephone calls and was so confused I almost gave up on this article. I even wrote to Senator Singer and our other Representatives but Singer's people



were the only ones that got back to me. However, it seems they too took their information from various web sites and the answers were still confusing and vague. Even Optimum gave me conflicting answers, first call the person told me I would need all new boxes, the second told me I may not have to do anything. Then there was the letter that came around from Optimum that indicated I would have to sign up for iO Navigation with a new cable box by May 20<sup>th</sup> or I wouldn't be able to receive the following channels and then they didn't list them. AARP had a pretty good answer on their web site but the article in their magazine was vague. The Board of Public Utilities had a fairly clear answer but I think the best was one from WNBC.com and I have added it without permission below.

\*\*From WNBC.com/digital: Cable and satellite TV subscribers with analog TVs hooked

up to their cable or satellite service should not be affected by the February 17, 2009 cut-off date for full-power analog broadcasting.

What about my VCR, DVD player, camcorder, and gaming console? Will I be able to use them with a digital television set?

Yes. Digital television sets are “backward compatible,” meaning existing analog equipment (VCRs, DVD players, camcorders, video games, etc.) will work on digital TV sets. However, their video will only be displayed in the maximum resolution that is available with each analog product. Manufacturers are producing a number of different connectors to hook equipment together and improve picture and sound quality when DTVs are used with existing analog equipment. Consumers who receive free broadcast television signals through antennas on television sets that are equipped with analog tuners - and who do not subscribe to cable, satellite or a telephone company service provider - will be affected by the transition. **Viewers who pay for TV services such as cable, satellite or telephone company television services should not be affected or need to upgrade.**

Any TV set in your home that is connected to a cable, satellite or a telephone company television service should not be affected by the transition. But if you have any TV sets—perhaps in a bedroom or kitchen—that are not connected to a paid TV service, you will need to upgrade those sets to continue receiving a television signal on those sets after the transition to digital television.\*\*

Even they used the word ‘should’ but it was still about the clearest and easiest to understand. So there you have it, if you have cable or satellite dish you are good to go but

if you have anything connected to an old fashioned antenna that receives its signal through the air, they will not work.

As always, check this and other tips at - <http://www.aaazzz.net/id5.html>

Bob Mattsson