



What is Digital Switchover?

Digital switchover is the process of moving from analogue to digital TV. Between now and 2012 the analogue TV signal from every analogue TV transmitter in the UK will be switched off and will change to transmitting new digital signals.

Why is it happening?

Digital TV uses less broadcast space than the analogue signal, which means there will be more room for new services, such as extra TV channels in standard and high definition. Plus digital TV gives you better quality than analogue TV.

How will it affect me?

The digital switchover means that every analogue TV needs to be upgraded or replaced in order to receive the new digital signals.

What are the benefits?

Digital TV offers a host of benefits over analogue TV, including:

- Better TV picture quality and the option of High Definition (HD) television
- More TV, radio and interactive channels, all through your TV set

- Electronic programme guides for instant, on-screen information about what's on now and over the next seven days, so you can plan your viewing
- Audio description and subtitling for people with visual and audio impairments
- Interactive features through the red button service, for extra channels, news and Information

When will it happen?

The switch from analogue to digital TV is being phased across the UK, so different regions will switch over on different dates.



To find out exactly when your transmitter will be switched over, visit www.digitaluk.co.uk/when_do_i_switch and type in your postcode.

How can I go digital?

When the digital switchover happens, the analogue signal will disappear completely so you'll need to replace or upgrade your analogue TV to make sure you can receive the digital signal and continue watching TV.

There are four main ways you can go digital:

1. Connect your TV to a digital set-top box
2. Connect your TV to a digital TV recorder
3. Buy a new TV that has a built-in digital tuner
4. Sign up to a subscription-based digital TV service

But whatever route you choose, remember to look for the Digital Tick, which certifies the equipment is designed to work after the digital switchover.



What about my VCR?

Don't panic! Your old VCR will continue to work and you will be able to play back all of your video tapes. But after the digital switchover your VCR will only be able to record the digital channel you are watching – not great if there are two of your favourite shows on at the same time.

Q. Do you regularly record your favourite programmes?

Q. Are you interested in extra features like pausing and rewinding live TV?

If you answer 'YES' to the above questions, then a digital personal video recorder (PVR) could be the ideal option, as it connects easily to your TV and works as an all-in-one digital box and recorder.

These clever boxes let you record and store hundreds of hours of your favourite shows and offer a range of whizzy extras:

- Less tapes - save hundreds of hours of your favourite shows directly onto the built-in hard drive. You may want to archive to tape or DVD though.
- Hassle-free – no more timers or manual set-up as you can record a programme or an entire series at the touch of a button.
- Pause and rewind live TV – so you can answer the phone or replay a crucial scene so you never miss a thing.

What else do I need to know?

- **Remember to re-tune!**

When the analogue signal switches off in your area, it's very likely that broadcast frequencies and channels will change, so remember to re-tune your set-top box or TV at this time. Visit www.tvretune.co.uk to find out more about how to do this

- **Are you in a Freeview area?**

While Freeview is available to most UK households, some will not be able to access the service. To check if you can, use the checker at www.freeview.co.uk/availability or call 08701 111 270 for more info.

- **Check your TV aerial**

Your aerial may need to be upgraded to watch digital TV from Freeview. Installers belonging to the Registered Digital Installer Scheme are security checked experts. Visit www.rdi-lb.tv to find one in your local area.

- **Choosing a satellite service**

If you live in a listed building or conservation area, you may need planning permission to install a satellite dish, so check with your local planning authority first.

- **Help schemes**

There are help schemes in place for people who are 75 or over, or have certain disabilities, or are registered blind or partially sighted. To find out more about the schemes and eligibility, go to www.helpscheme.co.uk or call 0800 40 85 900.

For more information

If you want to upgrade any of your TVs, or want to know more about the extra features and services that digital TV can offer, your local retailer is here to help. They can demonstrate the latest products and guide you through the range of choices to help you make the right one for your home.

The following links also offer useful information about moving to digital TV

Digital UK – 08456 50 50 50

www.digitaluk.co.uk

Freeview – 08701 111 270

www.freeview.co.uk

Freesat – 0845 313 0052

www.freesat.co.uk



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