

**2009 THE YEAR OF THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION
SPECIAL TO 4-H MEMBERS**



for the Project Helper

Knowledge about connecting devices to televisions:

Ability to connect a digital-to-analog converter box to an analog TV set and demonstrate how this is done to others.

Life skill:

Problem solving and learning how to adapt televisions to new technologies

Educational standard:

Basic operations and concepts.

Time involved:

½ to 1 hour.

Success indicator:

Digital broadcast signal can be viewed on an analog TV set.

TV GOES DIGITAL ON FEBRUARY 17, 2009

What Is The DTV Transition? Currently, many over-the-air stations are broadcasting in both analog and digital TV (DTV) formats. After February 17, 2009, full-power TV stations will only broadcast in digital. The DTV transition will affect those who watch free over-the-air television (through a rooftop antenna or “rabbit ears”). If you watch over-the-air programs on an analog TV, you must take action before February 17, 2009.

Why Are We Switching? Federal law requires the switch, which will free up frequencies for police, fire, and emergency rescue communications, allow broadcasters to offer programming with better picture and sound quality and offer more programming choices, and allow for commercial advanced wireless services.

**2009 THE YEAR OF THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION
SPECIAL TO 4-H MEMBERS**



What Should I Do To Be Ready?

You have three choices:

- 1) Connect your analog TV to a digital-to-analog converter box.** Digital-to-analog converter boxes will be in stores in 2008 and will have a one-time cost of \$40-\$70. To help consumers pay for the boxes, the U.S. government will be offering two \$40 coupons per household. You will be able to request the coupons beginning in January of 2008. For more information on the coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov, or call 1-888-388-2009 (voice) or 1-877-530-2634 (TTY). Your current broadcast antenna should work for digital broadcasts. **Or**
- 2) Buy a digital television (a TV with a built-in digital tuner).** Remember that you do not need to buy a High Definition TV (HDTV) to enjoy digital broadcast television. Plus, your current broadcast antenna should work for digital broadcasts. **Or**
- 3) Subscribe to a paid TV service.** If you subscribe to a paid service such as cable or satellite TV, you should contact your provider to see what, if any, equipment you may need. Remember that you will need a digital-to-analog converter box for any analog TV in your home not connected to your paid TV service.

The Federal Government created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The Program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40 that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes. However, consumers must complete and submit an application to receive the coupons. Applications are available on-line at www.dtv2009 or by phone at 888.388.2009.

**2009 THE YEAR OF THE DIGITAL TV TRANSITION
SPECIAL TO 4-H MEMBERS**



COMMUNITY SERVICE OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES:

- Assist low income, ethnic, senior and disabled consumers with applying for coupons.
- Public affairs outreach activities: write articles for school newspapers and community news letters; speak to student groups; or demonstrate installation of converter boxes at stores, or community events
- Answer questions at local and county fairs.

**ASSIST LOW INCOME, ETHNIC, SENIOR AND DISABLED CONSUMERS
WITH APPLYING FOR COUPONS:**

- Consumers may apply by phone at 888.388.2009 (The underserved consumers may need assistance dialing the phone, and/or providing the information required by the application.
- Consumers may apply on-line at www.dtv2009.gov (Consumers may need assistance accessing the website and filling out the application.
- Mailing in the application: Converter Box Coupons, P.O. Box 2000, Portland, OR 87208-2000

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES: WRITE ARTICLES FOR
SCHOOL NEWSPAPERS AND COMMUNITY NEWSLETTERS; SPEAK TO
STUDENT GROUPS; OR DEMONSTRATE INSTALLATION OF CONVERTER
BOXES AT STORES, OR COMMUNITY EVENTS.**

- The DTV Converter Box \$40 Coupon is a versatile community service project, because the transition from analog to digital television impacts the entire nation.
- Outreach efforts can be tailored to your schedule.
- Activities can be as simple as a school project, writing an article for a newsletter or talking to a community group.
- Demonstrate the installation of a converter box at school, a local retail store, community or religious gathering. (diagram follows)

TV CONVERTER BOX
COUPON PROGRAM
PO Box 2000, Portland, OR 97208-2000

Apply online:

www.DTV2009.gov

Apply by phone:

1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)

Fax applications to:

1-877-DTV-4ME2

Mail applications to:

PO Box 2000,
Portland, OR 97208

TTY: 1-877-530-2634 (English)

1-866-495-1161 (Spanish)

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE
SUBMITTED BY MARCH 31, 2009.**



Form Approved
OMB No. 0650-0024



COUPON APPLICATION

All information must be filled out. Please type or print clearly.

This Application is to apply for a \$40 Coupon which can be used towards the purchase of a TV converter box.

1. Your Name and Address.

NAME	First	Middle	Last
HOME ADDRESS	Street Address	City	State
			Zip
			Apt #

If the US Postal Service does not deliver mail to your Home Address, provide as much information as you can above regarding your Home Address and provide your Mailing Address below.

MAILING ADDRESS	Street Address - or - P.O. Box #	Apt #
<i>If different than above</i>	City	State
		Zip

2. TV Service: Check the statement below that best describes your household.

- All or some of the TVs in my house are connected to one or more pay services, such as cable or satellite.
- None of the TVs in my house are connected to one or more pay services, such as cable or satellite.

3. Coupons Requested: How many coupons do you want? ONE - OR - TWO

4. Signature: By signing below, you declare that the above is true and correct.

Signature	Date
-----------	------

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), unless that collection displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control number. Information collected using this form will not be sold.



If you receive free TV using an antenna and your TV is not digital, you need to take action sometime before **February 17, 2009** so you can continue to receive programs after that date.

What's this about? The Digital Television Transition and Public Safety Act of 2005 requires TV stations to stop broadcasting in analog and to broadcast only in digital after February 17, 2009. The digital transition will provide a better viewing experience for consumers and help emergency responders protect your community.

The Act created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wishing to use their analog TVs after the transition. The Federal government is offering US households up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a certified converter box. TVs connected to cable, satellite, or other pay services do not need a converter box to receive programs after February 17, 2009.

What do I need to do? For each analog TV you own, you need to decide before February 17, 2009 how you would like to get programming after the change to digital.

What are my options?

1. Buy a converter box that will plug into your current TV.
2. Buy a TV with a digital tuner.
3. Connect the analog TV to cable, satellite or other pay service.

More information can be found at www.DTV2009.gov.

How do I get a coupon? Apply online or by phone. You may also mail in or fax a Coupon Application. You may request one coupon now and one later, but no more than two coupons per household are allowed. Coupon supplies are limited. Coupons expire 90 days after they are mailed.



TV CONVERTER BOX COUPON PROGRAM



Apply online:
www.DTV2009.gov



Apply by phone:
1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009)

TTY: 1-877-530-2634 (English)
1-866-495-1161 (Spanish)



Mail applications to:
PO Box 2000,
Portland, OR 97208



Fax applications to:
1-877-DTV-4ME2



A converter box is a new product available beginning in 2008 that makes analog-only TVs work after February 17, 2009. A certified converter box is expected to cost between \$50 and \$70.



Are you ready for February 17, 2009?



Do you have a TV in your home that works with the help of "rabbit ears" or a rooftop antenna?



DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERTER QUICK START GUIDE

This guide will help you understand what a digital television converter box looks like and how easy it is to install and use. For complete instructions on a specific model of converter box, please refer to the literature included with your converter box.

STEP 1 - UNPACK

A) In the box you will find an instruction manual, a coaxial cable, a remote control with batteries and the set-top converter box. A power cable, power supply, audio/video cables and cable adaptors may be included as well.



AUDIO/VIDEO CABLES COAXIAL CABLE POWER

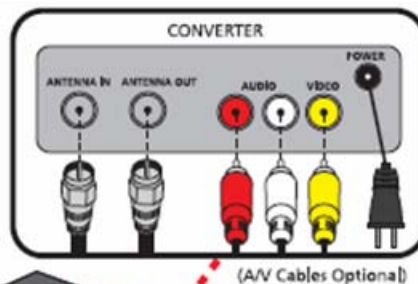
B) Begin by placing the converter near the TV so it will be visible from the front.

STEP 2 - CONNECT

A) Disconnect your existing antenna by pulling or unscrewing the coaxial cable from the "antenna in" jack on the back of your TV.

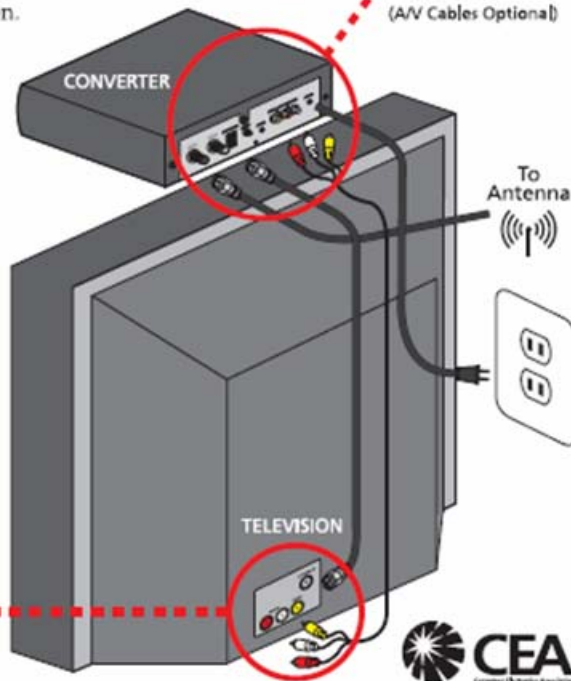
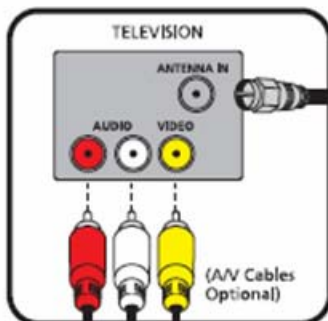
B) Connect the antenna cable to the "antenna in" jack on the back of the converter box.

C) Use the supplied coaxial cable to connect the "antenna out" jack on the converter to the "antenna in" on the back of the television.



NOTE: The red, white and yellow auxiliary outputs can be used as an alternative to the coaxial cable if your set is equipped with corresponding inputs, or to connect a video cassette recorder (VCR).

D) Next, plug in the converter box power cable and install the supplied batteries in the remote control.



DIGITAL TELEVISION CONVERTER QUICK START GUIDE

NOTE: If your antenna connects to your set through a thin, flat wire hooked to a pair of screw terminals instead of the threaded coaxial cable input, you will need to use an inexpensive antenna adaptor, available from your local electronics retailer.



STEP 3 - SCAN FOR CHANNELS

- A)** Turn on the television and tune it to channel three. (Note: If channel three is in use in your area, consult the converter box manual for instructions on how to use channel four instead).
- B)** Point the remote toward the converter box and press the "power" button. A small light on the front of the box will indicate that the box is getting power and has turned on.
- C)** The first time the unit is powered up, it will either prompt you to scan for local channels or it will begin scanning for channels automatically. This could take several minutes but will only happen once. Once the channel scanning process is complete, your box will be ready to use.

STEP 4 - ENJOY!

- A)** Press the "channel up" button on the converter box remote to explore your new digital stations. Do not be surprised if you suddenly receive many additional channels.
- B)** If any of your desired stations are missing, refer to the converter's manual for instructions on how to add additional channels.
- C)** Then, just sit back and enjoy the added features and superior quality of digital television!

For more information on the digital transition, visit DigitalTips.org and DTVtransition.org.