Your guide to the digital TV switchover

• If you have any more questions visit digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 50 50 50*

• If you need this information in an alternative format call 0845 454 0015*

• If you have a hearing or speech impairment, you can contact our textphone service on 0845 234 0380*

*Calls provided by BT charged at up to 2p per minute daytime and 0.5p per minute evenings (plus 6p BT connection charge). Rates may vary for calls from other providers including mobile operators.
What is the digital switchover?

The digital switchover is the biggest thing to happen to TV since the introduction of colour.

TV in the UK is going digital, and the existing analogue TV signal will be switched off transmitter group by transmitter group between now and 2012. Switchover means that almost everyone will be able to receive digital TV through their aerial.

To keep your TV service, you will need to convert your TVs to digital before your area’s switchover date.

Who is digitaluk?

We are the not-for-profit company responsible for leading the UK’s digital switchover. We’re independent, which means that all the advice and information we provide is impartial and unbiased.

To make sure the digital TV switchover runs smoothly, we are working with the following organisations:

Digital UK is leading the switchover

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“What channels do we get and when do we switchover?”

Channels and services
With digital TV, you can enjoy the five traditional TV channels, plus lots more.

Most households will be able to receive around 40 channels, with all areas getting around 20 of the most popular channels such as ITV2, E4 and BBC Three.

If you choose a monthly subscription service like Sky TV or Virgin Media, you could receive around 340 channels.

Most homes will receive the following as standard:

- BBC One
- BBC Two
- ITV One
- C4
- Five
- BBC Parliament
- CBBC
- CBeebies
- Radio 4
- Interactive Services
- News
- AD
- Subtitling

Channels are subject to change.

Digital switchover by TV region

The switchover has already begun with the rest of the UK switching between now and 2012, transmitter group by transmitter group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Border</td>
<td>2008/09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Country</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>2009/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granada</td>
<td>2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>2010/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STV North</td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STV Central</td>
<td>2010/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anglia</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meridian</td>
<td>2011/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyne Tees</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTV</td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To find out when you switch visit our postcode checker at digitaluk.co.uk.

† This is a predictive coverage database and should be used as a guide only.
Getting digital TV

You need to decide which digital TV service to get. You can convert your existing TV with any of the services in the table opposite or you can get a TV with a digital box built-in. Visit our postcode checker at digitaluk.co.uk† to find out what is available in your area.

If you decide to get new TV equipment, make sure it has the ‘digital tick’ logo, it looks like this:

![digital logo](image)

It appears on products that are designed to continue working after switchover.

### How do I go digital?

You can choose a monthly subscription or a one-off payment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVIDER</th>
<th>COST*</th>
<th>CHANNELS</th>
<th>CONTACT DETAILS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freeview</td>
<td>Digital boxes from £25* Digital TVs from £150* Self installation</td>
<td>Up to 48 digital channels</td>
<td>0870 111 1240 freeview.co.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freesat from Sky</td>
<td>£150 including minidish, viewing card, standard Sky box and installation</td>
<td>Over 200 digital TV channels</td>
<td>08442 410 595 freesatfromsky.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>freesat</td>
<td>Digital boxes from £50 Installation (if required) costs from £80</td>
<td>Up to 80 digital TV channels†</td>
<td>0845 313 0053 freesat.co.uk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sky</td>
<td>From £16-£45 a month depending on package. Installation costs from £30</td>
<td>Over 160 digital TV channels plus over 200 free-to-air channels</td>
<td>08442 410 285 sky.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virgin Media</td>
<td>The basic package is free or up to £20.50 when you take a Virgin phone line (£11). Installation costs £30</td>
<td>Up to 140 digital TV channels, plus access to on demand TV, films and music videos</td>
<td>0800 052 2525 virginmedia.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BT Vision</td>
<td>Free with a BT Broadband subscription which costs from £15.99 a month*. Set up charge from £30 may apply.</td>
<td>Up to 48 channels plus on demand TV, films and sport</td>
<td>0800 678 1984 bt.com/vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top Up TV</td>
<td>Top Up TV recorder from £79.99 required. £9.99 a month for Top Up TV anytime. No contract required.</td>
<td>Up to 48 Freeview channels plus TV favourites, sport and films</td>
<td>08444 158 158 topuptv.com</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Costs and channel listings are correct at time of printing, July 2008. For full terms and conditions and to check availability in your area, please contact each supplier directly. BT Vision: Minimum guaranteed line speed required.
†Five will be joining freesat later in 2008. Other digital platforms are available, visit digitaluk.co.uk for the full list.

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Do I need a new TV?
No. With some rare exceptions, any TV can be converted with a digital box, even a black and white set.

Will I need a SCART lead?
Most digital boxes connect to a TV using a SCART cable. If there isn’t a socket for the cable on the back of your TV, you will need to ask for a digital box with an ‘RF-modulator’. You will need a SCART lead for every piece of equipment you want to connect to your TV.

Will my video or DVD recorder still work?
Yes, your video and DVD recorder will still play back and record, but most won’t be able to record one channel while you’re watching another. The simplest way to do this is to get a digital TV recorder such as Sky+, V+ or Freeview+. A digital TV recorder with a ‘twin tuner’ will also convert your TV to digital.

Will I need a new aerial?
Most rooftop and some set-top aerials will continue to work after switchover. To check the condition of your aerial, visit Teletext p284 where a test shows your aerial strength.

If you think you need to repair or replace your aerial, look for an installer with the ‘digital tick’, it means they have been trained and security checked. Only Registered Digital Installers (RDIs) are permitted to use the ‘digital tick’ logo. If you can’t find one, look for someone with Associate RDI, CAI Plus or IDSC status, or ask your local electrical retailer.

How much does a rooftop aerial cost?
Installation of a standard new rooftop aerial is likely to cost £60-£180. Additional socket costs around £45.

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Do I need an HD (High Definition) TV for switchover?

No, there’s no need to buy HD equipment for the digital switchover.

Sky TV, Freesat and Virgin Media all offer an HD service. If you do choose to get HDTV equipment, make sure it carries the digital

What happens if I already have digital TV?

If you already have more than the five standard TV channels on all your TV sets, then you are probably ready for switchover. However, if you only have digital TV on your main set, you’ll need to think about converting any others.

What if I live in a flat?

If you live in a flat, your TV signal probably comes through a communal aerial system. Many of these will need upgrading or adapting. Your landlord, managing agent, property manager or factor may need to take action before switchover. Ask them to call us on 08458 455 455* or visit digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers.

The Switchover Help Scheme

We can help you convert one of your TVs to digital if:

• you are aged 75 or over, or
• you get (or could get):
  disability living allowance
  attendance or constant attendance allowance
  mobility supplement
  or you’re blind or partially sighted

It costs £40, but if you’re eligible and on certain income-related benefits, it’s free.

If you’re eligible, the Switchover Help Scheme will be in touch in plenty of time to ask if you want help.

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