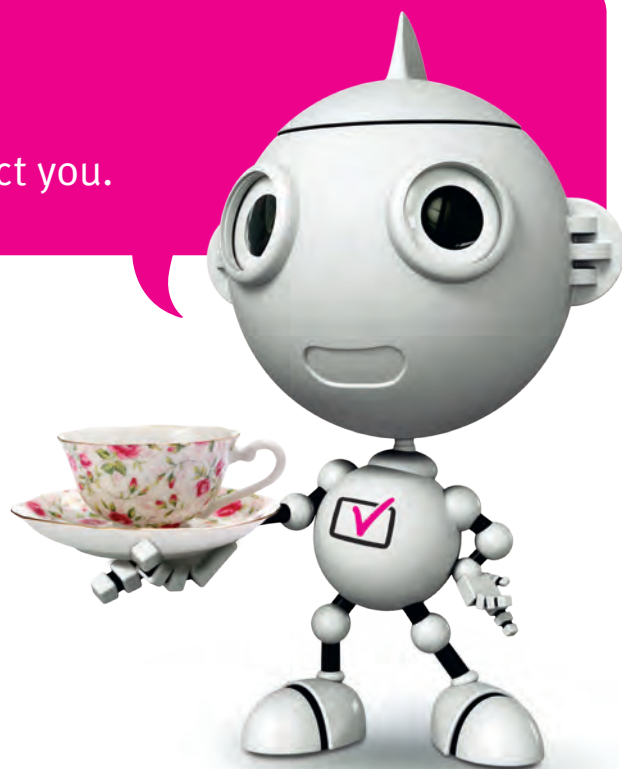


Care Homes

How the digital TV switchover may affect you.



What is the digital TV switchover?

TV in the UK is going digital, and the existing analogue signal is being switched off TV region by TV region between now and 2012. Digital UK is the independent not-for-profit company responsible for leading the digital TV switchover.

Use our postcode checker

Use Digital UK's postcode checker at:

digitaluk.co.uk

to find out when your region switches to digital and what services you will be able to receive after switchover.

What does switchover mean for Care Homes?

To continue delivering TV to residents' rooms and communal areas after switchover, care homes will need to ensure that all their TV systems are able to support a digital TV signal. This may mean upgrading or replacing the existing communal TV aerial system. In addition you, or your residents, will also need to make sure that TV sets are upgraded to digital.

Most residents will be eligible for the Switchover Help Scheme.

Switchover Help Scheme

The Help Scheme will help older and eligible disabled people make the change to digital. Residents will be eligible if they;

- Have lived in a care home for six months or more, or
- Are aged 75 or older, or
- Are registered blind or partially sighted, or
- Get or (could get) certain disability benefits.

Every eligible person will be offered practical help to convert one of their TV sets in the run-up to switchover in each region. **Please note the Help Scheme will not fund any works that may be needed to the communal aerial system.**



For more information visit helpscheme.co.uk

You can receive a digital TV signal in a number of ways:

1. An aerial
2. A satellite
3. A laptop or PC

1. Through an aerial

Individual aerials

Most rooftop and some set-top aerials will continue to work after switchover. To check the condition of your aerial, visit **Teletext p284**.

Communal aerial systems

All communal aerial systems (an aerial or satellite dish serving multiple TV connection points) over ten years old may need checking, and possibly upgrading, because of age or condition. There are several different types:

- A traditional **Master Antenna TV System** (MATV) can carry analogue and digital terrestrial television signals (Freeview) through an aerial. A MATV upgrade re-using the existing cabling and outlet sockets should cost from £40 per outlet. Installing a new MATV system typically starts from £130 per outlet.
- If you are replacing an existing system, you might want to consider installing an **Integrated Reception System** (IRS). It carries satellite services through a satellite dish as well as analogue and digital terrestrial television signals (Freeview) through an aerial. A basic IRS system with a single outlet in each flat or room should cost from £200 per outlet. IRS systems for Sky+ and freesat+ with High Definition and recording will cost more.

- A central **head-end distribution box** can provide five digital channels without the need to change the existing analogue TVs. However, this system provides the viewers with a limited choice of channels and does not provide interactive services, audio description or subtitling. This costs from £500.

At each stage of switchover, channelised communal TV aerial systems may need to be re-tuned. Pre-set filters may need to be replaced and electronic filters will need re-tuning.

For more details about this and your options see www.digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers

2. Through a satellite dish

There are a range of non-subscription services available such as freesat or Freesat from Sky, or subscription services from Sky. Service providers can advise on the necessary equipment and installation for your business.

3. Through a cable or phone line

In many regions you can access digital TV through a cable or phone line. The provider will install and provide all equipment needed.

There are a number of factors for you to think about in getting your care home ready for switchover; cost, possible disruption to your residents and the TV services your residents would like.



For more information on the digital TV switchover contact Digital UK.
Call us on **08458 455 455*** or visit us at digitaluk.co.uk/propertymanagers



get set for digital

*Calls are free for BT customers within inclusive calling plans. Call charges from other providers may vary. The standard business hours for Digital UK's contact centre are 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm on a Saturday. Opening hours will be extended during switchover in each area. Digital UK, PO Box 26833, Kirkcaldy, KY2 9AG