DTV

Digital Television

Tomorrow's TV Today!

Digital Television (DTV) is a new broadcasting technology that will transform your television viewing experience. That means better quality, more choices, and more control over your television.

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Here's what you should know about DTV before you buy:

☐ **Compare DTV picture quality.** DTV comes in several levels of picture quality. The most common are: **High Definition Television (HDTV), Enhanced Definition Television (EDTV)** and **Standard Definition Television (SDTV).** HDTV is DTV at its highest resolution. EDTV is DVD quality and SDTV is the basic digital service.

2

☐ **Compare screen types.** You have a choice in DTV screens. Today, the primary options are: **Cathode ray tube (CRT) screens**—traditional television screens updated for digital; **Rear Projection TVs**—using technologies like Digital Light Processing (DLP) and Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), can create brilliant, wide angle pictures on very large screens; **Flat Panel TVs**—are very thin and produce bright, clear pictures using technologies like LCD and plasma, but may be more expensive than some other options.

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☐ **Make sure you have all the DTV equipment you need.** You can purchase an integrated digital TV or separate receiving and display components. **"Integrated"** digital televisions have built-in tuners and a monitor to display the programming. If you buy a digital **monitor** (without an integrated tuner), you will need a stand-alone tuner or a cable or satellite set-top box to watch DTV.

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☐ **Ask what connectors you need to make sure your new DTV equipment will work with your other electronic equipment (DVD player, digital video recorder (DVR), camcorder, VCR, computer, video games, etc.).** The electronic equipment you have now should work with your new DTV, but you may need new cables. Make a list of what you have now and ask your retailer what you need to connect your components.

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☐ **"Digital cable ready" (or "plug-and-play") televisions are also available.** These can be used to receive digital cable TV (and often HD over cable) without a separate set-top box. You will need a CableCARD to receive certain cable programming.

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☐ **HDTV is not the same as DTV.** Not all **DTV** is **HDTV**. If you have an HDTV display, make sure to ask about HDTV-capable equipment and talk to your cable or satellite provider to verify you have the proper set-top box to view HDTV.

☐ **More DTV and HDTV programming is being offered every day.** For a list of available digital programming in your area, go to **www.dtv.gov**.

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☐ **Your current analog TV will still work when TV broadcasters stop broadcasting in the analog format. After February 17, 2009, all full-power TV stations are required to cease analog broadcasts.** To continue working, your analog TV will need a digital-to-analog converter box to receive broadcast signals, or must be connected to a cable or satellite service. A converter box, much like your cable box, will allow you to receive and view programming, but it won't allow you to view high definition pictures. To experience the full benefits of DTV, you will need a digital television set.

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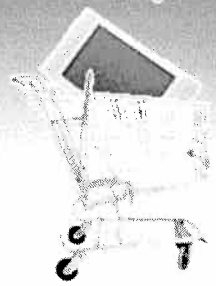
For More Information

Visit the Federal Communications Commission's DTV Web site at **www.dtv.gov**