

Having reception trouble?

Check your antenna.

▶ How do I know if I'm using an antenna now?

If you can watch TV on any sets that are not connected to a pay TV service, then that TV set is using an antenna to receive free broadcast signals over the air.

▶ I'm able to watch free TV, but I don't see my antenna. Do I have one?

Antennas can be indoor or outdoor, ranging from "rabbit ears" to large outdoor antennas. If you live in a home or apartment, your antenna may be on the roof or the building may have a master antenna system for all of the residents.

▶ I heard my local station is moving to a new channel. How could that affect me?

After the transition, some TV stations may move to another channel in a different frequency band, which may require you to get another type of antenna than the one you use now.

For example, a station currently in the VHF band could move to a channel in the UHF band, and vice versa. Receiving VHF and UHF signals require different antenna types, although some antennas are designed to pick up both VHF and UHF signals.

▶ Do I have a UHF or VHF antenna?

Antennas are designed to pick up either UHF or VHF signals, or both. The VHF frequency band refers to channels 2-13, and the UHF frequency band refers to channels 14-51. VHF antennas tend to be much larger in size than UHF antennas.

▶ What type of antenna do I need after the transition to digital television?

Most digital TV stations use UHF channels, but some are VHF. You will likely need an antenna that can receive UHF signals, but if any stations in your area broadcast on the VHF band, then you will need a combination VHF/UHF antenna. Receiving VHF and UHF requires different types of antennas. If your current antenna is VHF-only, then you will need to replace it.



▶ **I installed the converter box and lost some of the channels I used to get.**

1) Make sure you have the right type of antenna, UHF or UHF/VHF, for the stations you want to receive. Once you have the right antenna, you may need to adjust its position and the direction it is pointing to get the best reception.

2) Depending on your geographic location or the strength of a TV station's signal, some DTV channels will be easier to receive than others.

▶ **I have the right indoor antenna, but lost channels after hooking up my converter box.**

Try moving the antenna around and changing its angle. If this works, remember to rescan your TV set and converter box. If this doesn't work, you may need to get a different indoor antenna design or consider changing to an outdoor antenna.

Note that depending on your geographic location or the strength of a TV station's signal, some DTV channels will be easier to receive than others.

▶ **I have the right outdoor antenna, but lost channels after hooking up my converter box.**

Try repositioning the antenna. Generally, mounting an antenna higher provides better reception. Outdoor antennas also need to be carefully pointed in the direction of the transmitting station.

Once you are satisfied with the reception, remember to rescan your TV set and converter box to receive all of the digital stations in your area. You will also need to rescan again after the June 12, 2009 transition to pick up all of your local broadcasts.

▶ **I live in a hilly area. What type of antenna should I have?**

Hills and trees can block digital reception more easily than analog. An outdoor antenna, typically mounted on a rooftop, is needed in more difficult reception areas.

For more information, please visit:

AntennaWeb.org – Use this resource to find an outdoor antenna that best suits your needs and to determine in which frequency band the stations you watch are located.