

Get set for digital



Television in the UK is going digital, bringing us all better choice and new services.
Find out why and what it means for you.

What is digital switchover?

Television is going completely digital. Switching the UK to digital-only TV is called digital switchover. And it's the biggest change in broadcasting since colour television was introduced in 1967.

This process will be happening in your area some time between 2008 and 2012. It will happen ITV region by ITV region, depending on where you live. So we will all have plenty of time to get set for digital.

Why is it happening?

About 63% of UK households get digital TV already.

But the Government wants everyone to enjoy the benefits of digital TV. Key to this is to ensure that everyone has a greater choice of digital TV options they can afford.

Today, about 1 in 4 UK households cannot get the full range of digital TV services available free through an aerial, and 1 in 5 UK households cannot get Five through their aerial. The number of UK households that can get these services can only be increased through the process of digital switchover. So switchover will make it fairer for everyone.

Switching to digital will free up spectrum that could be used for new services such as high definition television (HDTV) and broadcasting to mobile phones.

Digital switchover will also help the UK continue as a world leader in broadcasting. It will ensure that today's ageing terrestrial broadcasting network is replaced by the best available technology, digital.

When will it happen in my area?

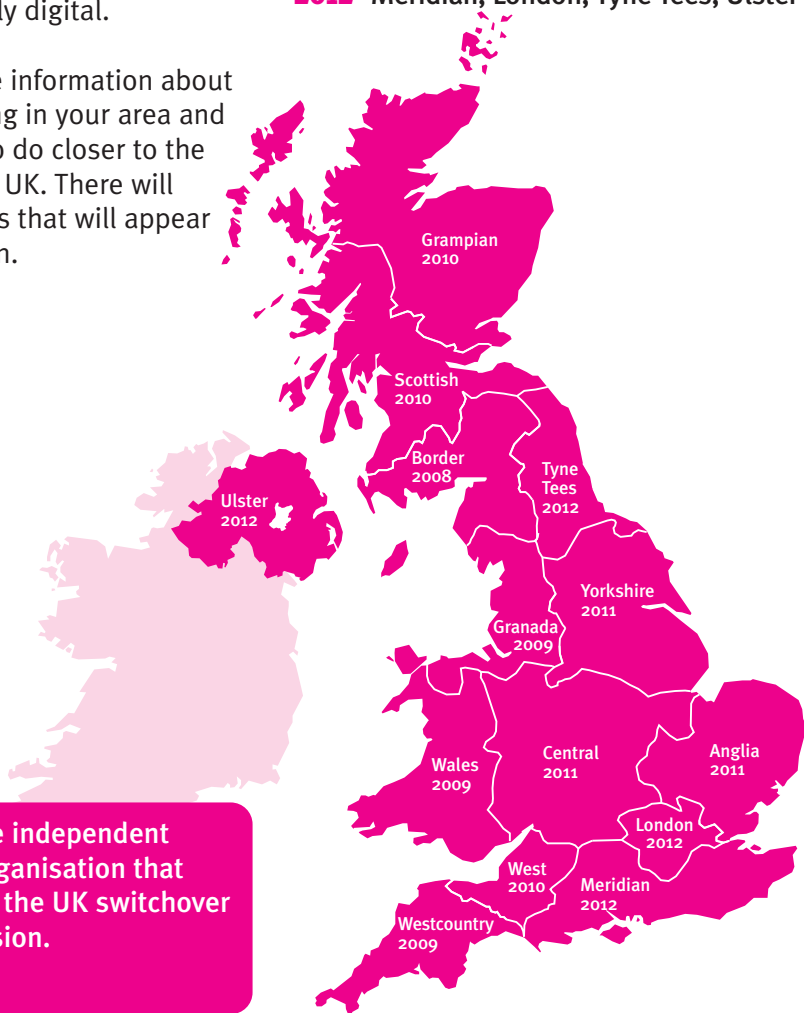
The process of digital switchover will take place between 2008 and 2012, ITV region by ITV region.

The map below gives more information about when television in your ITV region will go fully digital.

You will get more information about what is happening in your area and what you need to do closer to the time from Digital UK. There will also be messages that will appear on your TV screen.

By ITV region:

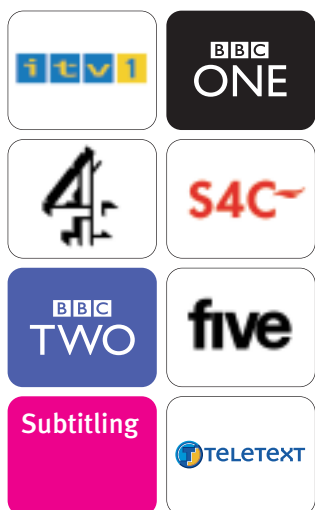
- 2008** Border
- 2009** Westcountry, Wales, Granada
- 2010** West, Grampian, Scottish
- 2011** Central, Yorkshire, Anglia
- 2012** Meridian, London, Tyne Tees, Ulster



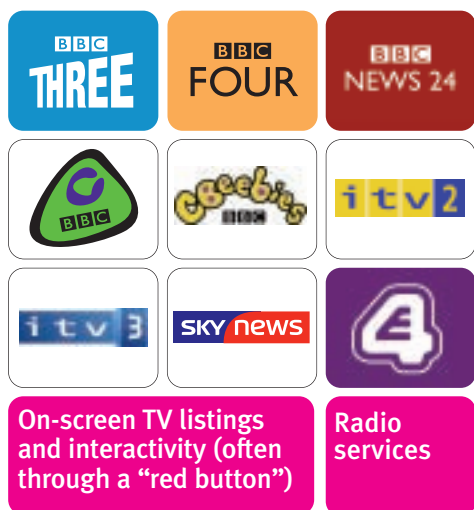
Digital UK is the independent not-for-profit organisation that is co-ordinating the UK switchover to digital television.

What you get with digital TV

When you get digital TV, you will still get all the channels and services that you can get today*.



Depending on how you choose to get digital TV you will get many extra channels and services as standard and at no extra cost, such as:



Depending on where you live and how you choose to get digital TV, there are many more TV and radio channels available on subscription offering services such as films, sports, documentaries and much more besides...

To find out exactly what you can get in your area check online at www.digitaluk.co.uk or ask your local retailer or supplier.

*Some digital platforms currently do not support Teletext and subtitling, although all have plans to do so by switchover.

How to go digital

First you need to choose how to get your digital TV signal

There are several ways that you can get a digital TV signal –

- 1 Through an aerial**
- 2 By satellite**
- 3 By cable**
- 4 Through a telephone line**

Not all options are available in all areas. Some areas will not be able to get digital TV through an aerial until after digital switchover. For more information, check at www.digitaluk.co.uk, contact any of the companies listed on the back of this leaflet, or ask your local retailer or supplier.

Then you need to choose what to do with your TV set

You have two choices:

1 Simply convert your existing TV set

This is done by plugging a digital box (often called a “set top box”) into the back of the set

2 Take the opportunity to buy a new TV set

You can buy or rent a TV set with a digital box built inside it, often called an “Integrated Digital TV” or iDTV which will let you receive the free digital TV services through an aerial. iDTVs will not enable you to receive digital television by satellite, cable or through your phone line without additional equipment.

Don't forget your video recorder

You will be able to use your current video recorder unless you want to record one programme while watching another. Then you will need to get a digital TV recorder.

The range of new digital TV recorders (often called “Personal Video Recorders” or PVRs) is expanding all the time. Ask your local retailer for more information.

Going digital can be easy and affordable – with options available to suit every budget.

Some questions you may have...

I can't get digital TV through an aerial today. Will I be able to after switchover?

One of the main reasons that digital switchover is happening is to ensure that most households can choose how to get digital TV. After digital switchover, at least 98.5% of households should be able to receive free digital TV services through an aerial.

Will I need a new TV aerial?

Most households won't. If you choose to get digital TV through an aerial, and have reception problems even though you are in a current coverage area (details of how to check this are available on page 4), you will need to check if your existing TV aerial and installation are suitable. Check with your local aerial installer – look for an installer who belongs to the Confederation of Aerial Industries or, from 2006, an installer who carries the digital switchover Certification Mark.

I have 3 TV sets in my house. Do they all need to be converted?

You will need to ensure that every TV set in your home that you want to use to watch TV broadcasts can receive digital TV. Any TV set that you use solely to play back videotapes or DVDs, or with a games console, will not need to be converted.

I live in a flat and share my aerial with others. What do I need to do?

If you share your aerial with others then you may have a communal TV system. If so, this will need to be adapted to receive digital television. Your landlord or managing agent should be aware of this and be making plans – ask them for more information.

Will I still need a TV licence after digital switchover?

If you need a TV licence today, you will still need one after digital switchover.

Certification Mark



Look for the logo...

For more information

The digital switchover Certification Mark (the “digital tick”) certifies information, goods and services designed to help you through digital switchover. Look for the mark when getting digital television equipment and related services. From 2006, aerial installers that have completed a high level of industry training will be certified to use the “digital tick” logo.

Details of retail outlets and products that can use this mark are provided on www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk



You can access information from Digital UK or the Government on the Internet:

www.digitaluk.co.uk
www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk

Or you can call the Digital UK information line on **0845 6 50 50 50**

We can provide documents to meet the specific requirements of people with disabilities. Please contact publications@digitaluk.co.uk

For those needing extra help

To ensure that everyone can benefit from digital TV, those who most need it will be given support to help them through the process.

The support scheme will provide equipment to convert one TV set, help with its installation and follow-up support for people aged 75 years and over and people with significant disabilities (receiving attendance allowance or disability living allowance).

There will be no charge for this help for the poorest eligible households e.g. those on Income Support, Job Seeker’s Allowance or Pension Credit. There may be a modest fee for this help for other households.

If you are eligible for help you will be sent more information well before your area goes digital.

Digital TV service providers

More information about particular digital TV services is available from the service providers themselves. They will also be able to advise you on any installation help you need.

Digital TV through an aerial – free-to-view service provided by Freeview with additional subscription services from Top Up TV

Freeview 08708 809980 www.freeview.co.uk

Top Up TV 08700 543210 www.topuptv.com

Digital TV via a satellite – free-to-view or subscription channels available with Sky

Sky 08702 403481 www.sky.com

Freesat from Sky 08706 061111

Digital TV via cable – subscription services provided by ntl, Telewest Broadband and WightCable (WightCable IOW and WightCable North)

ntl 0800 052 4000 www.ntl.com

Telewest Broadband 0800 953 5353 www.telewest.co.uk

WightCable 08000 706150 www.wightcable.com www.wightcablenorth.com

Digital TV through a telephone line (broadband / DSL) – subscription services provided by Kingston Communications (KIT) and Homechoice – both are currently limited to certain areas

KIT 01482 222666 www.kcom.com

Homechoice 0800 092 4444 www.homechoice.co.uk

Not all services are available in all areas.

The digital switchover logo is a Certification Mark.
www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk

This leaflet has been produced jointly by the Government and Digital UK. Digital UK has been set up by the UK's public service broadcasters and the digital terrestrial multiplex operators. Digital UK will communicate with the public about digital switchover to ensure everyone knows what is happening, what they need to do and when.

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