

Buying digital TV equipment

If you are buying digital TV equipment for the switchover you may want to consider the following tips:

- Every TV set you want to continue watching after switchover needs to be converted to digital
- You don't need to get a new TV. Almost any TV can be converted with a digital box, even a black and white one
- If you decide to get new equipment make sure it has the 'digital tick' logo which means it is designed to continue working after the switchover

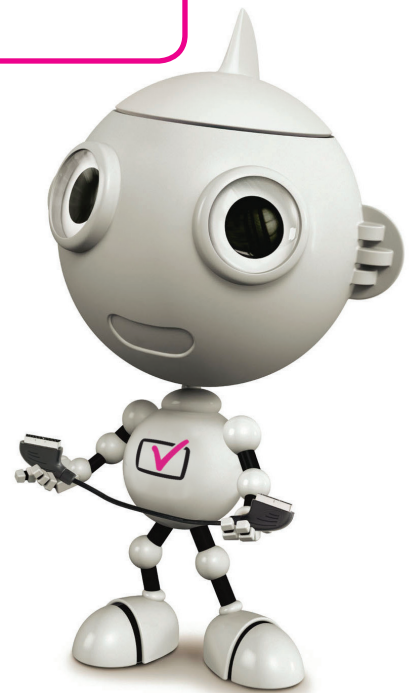


- There are a number of ways you can go digital, you can choose a service that is professionally installed for you such as Sky TV, Virgin Media or you can install services like Freeview or Top Up TV yourself
- If your TV doesn't have a SCART socket, you will still be able to convert it. Ask for a digital box that has an 'RF modulator' built in
- If you decide to get Freeview, BT Vision or Top Up TV you should check your aerial. If you have a good picture now, you probably won't need a new aerial after switchover
- If both your television and recorder are analogue, consider switching with a 'twin tuner' digital recorder. It will convert your TV and allow you to record digital TV at the touch of a button

Ask yourself the following questions before you visit an electrical retailer:

- How many television sets do I have that are still analogue?
- Do they have SCART sockets (this is to connect the digital box to the television)?
- What recording equipment do I have and what are my recording needs?
- Are there any other functions that I need to consider when buying digital equipment? e.g. any sight, hearing or dexterity problems.

This is what a scart lead looks like. You'll need two of these if you've got a digital box and recorder.



Additional requirements

If you or anyone in your household has any special requirements, there are options to suit your needs:

Are you/someone you know blind or partially sighted?

Ask for a box with audio description. This is additional commentary explaining on-screen action, body language and facial expressions. Your retailer should be able to advise you on equipment with audio description.



Check that the on-screen programme guide is easy for you to read. In particular you need to see if you find it legible, whether the colour contrasts and letter sizes suit you.

Are you or someone you know hard of hearing?

You may want to look for a remote that has a subtitles button. Many digital products will display subtitles when they're switched on and maintain this service when changing channels.

You may want to look for an induction loop system that helps deaf people who use a hearing aid, or loop listener, hear sounds more clearly because it cuts out the background noise. Ask your local electrical retailer for advice.

Do you or someone you know have dexterity problems?

Look for a remote control with big buttons.

When you buy a digital box, you will normally have to use two remote controls; one to control the TV and one to control the digital box. If you're not comfortable doing this, ask your retailer or service provider whether it is possible to get one remote that will do both, or consider buying a TV with digital built-in.

Where can I go for more information?

New products and services are coming onto the market all the time. For detailed advice on the range of accessible digital TV products call the RNIB on **0845 766 99 99** or visit **www.rnib.co.uk**. Or the RNID on **0808 808 0123** Textphone **0808 808 9000** or visit **www.rnid.org.uk**

For more information on the digital TV switchover contact Digital UK

Call us **08456 50 50 50***

Visit us **digitaluk.co.uk**

*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.