Remember to Rescan

Sometimes digital TV channels change. Some stations may stop broadcasting or change frequencies, while new stations on different channels may become available.

If you receive digital TV over-the-air with an antenna, you should periodically rescan to update the channels you receive. While some boxes do this automatically, you may need to select "scan" or "auto-tune" from the TV or converter box control menu to start the scanning process. You can usually find instructions to do so by pressing the "set-up" or "menu" buttons on your remote control.

If you have difficulty, consult the owner's manual for more detailed instructions on how to run a channel scan, or contact customer service for your TV or converter box manufacturer. You may find contact information in your instruction manual or on the internet.

Once the rescan is complete, you should be receiving all available digital channels through your antenna.

Remember, all full power television stations in the United States are broadcast in digital only. To watch a digital broadcast, you have three options:

1. Get a digital to analog converter box to connect to an existing older analog set along with your antenna.
2. Subscribe to cable, satellite, or other pay TV service.
3. Have a digital television set with an antenna.

If you have just installed a converter box or set up a DTV-ready television, you will need to follow the instructions for scanning or auto-tuning for channels outlined above to ensure you receive all the digital stations broadcasting in your area.

Consumer Help Center

For more information on this and other consumer issues, visit the FCC’s Consumer Help Center at www.fcc.gov/consumers.

Accessible formats

To request this article in an accessible format - braille, large print, Word or text document or audio - write or call us at the address or phone number at the bottom of the page, or send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov.

Last Reviewed 04/07/17