



TV Converter Box Coupon Program

DEPARTMENT OF THE PUBLIC ADVOCATE
Division of Rate Counsel



Are You Prepared For Digital TV?

Learn About The TV Converter Box Coupon Program



Ronald K. Chen
Public Advocate



Stefanie A. Brand
Director, Rate Counsel

On February 17, 2009, all TV broadcasters will be required to shut off their analog signals and broadcast solely on the digital spectrum. The digital transition will provide better picture and sound quality, and provide the ability for more programming choices and interactive capabilities.

Converter Box May Be Needed

After February 17, 2009 if you have a TV set that gets its signal from a rooftop antenna or rabbit ears and if your TV is not digital you will need to buy a converter box for each TV in order to get television reception. However, if you subscribe to cable, satellite or other pay service through a set-top box, it does not matter if your television is analog or digital and you will not need a converter box.

Aid Is Available

Most converter boxes cost between \$40 and \$70 and if you own an older analog TV and need converter boxes there is financial help. The federal government is offering all US household up to two \$40 coupons to help pay for the cost of a converter box. The coupons are not eligible towards the purchase of a new TV and will expire after 90 days.

How To Get a Coupon

You can apply for a coupon either:
Online: www.DTV2009.gov
Phone: 1-888-388-2009

Where To Redeem Coupons

Mail: **TV Converter Box Coupon Program**
PO Box 2000
Portland, OR 97208
Fax: **1-888-388-3632**

Prepare Now, You Have A Year

The Division of Rate Counsel is urging that all New Jerseyans apply and redeem their digital TV converter box coupons at their earliest convenience. If you do your analog TV will work after February 17, 2009 and you will not have to buy a new television set or sign up for cable or satellite service to receive television reception. All you will need is the converter box for your analog TV and you may continue to watch free broadcast television.

