

BROADCAST TV TRANSITION:



What to Watch For

Overview Brochure



Federal
Communications
Commission

Some local TV stations across the U.S. will be changing their over-the-air broadcast frequencies. At that time, viewers will need to rescan their TV to continue to watch that channel.

This brochure has been created to provide guidance on TV frequency changes for people who use an antenna to watch over-the-air television.

Topics include:

- ➔ TV Rescan
- ➔ TV Viewer FAQs
- ➔ Online Resources
- ➔ Quick Start Guide



TV Rescan

Many over-the-air TV channels will be changing frequencies to open up airwaves for new high-speed wireless services. A change in frequency impacts how a channel is received over-the-air by your TV.

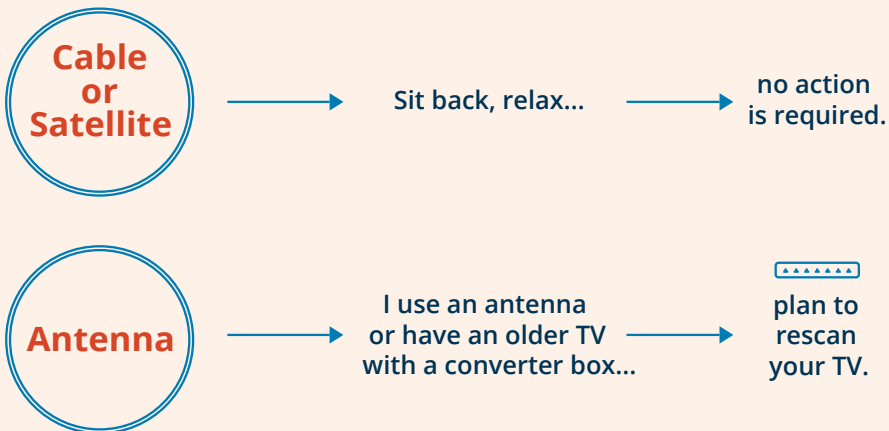
If you watch over-the-air television with an antenna, you will need to rescan your TV set each time a station moves to a new frequency to ensure that your TV recognizes the new frequency when you tune to that channel. It's the same scan that you did to find your local channels when you set up your TV or converter box for the first time.

The channel number that you see on your TV will not change. After the TV is rescanned, you will tune in to the same channels to watch your favorite shows.

Rescanning only applies to people who receive their local channels using a TV antenna. Cable and satellite subscribers are not affected.

Stations that are moving will provide notice of their upcoming "Rescan Day." At that time, viewers need to rescan their TV to continue to watch that channel. Because local TV stations will move frequencies at different times, and certain low power stations (e.g., local and specialty stations) may also be changing, viewers may need to rescan more than once to continue receiving all local channels.

How do you watch local channels on TV?





TV Viewer FAQs

Here's what you need to know to be sure that you don't miss any of your favorite programs when TV frequencies change.

If I have cable or satellite, do I need to rescan?

No, cable and satellite customers do not need to take any action. Your provider will make the necessary changes. If you notice channels missing, contact your TV provider.

If I live in a multi-unit building and obtain service through my building, do I need to rescan?

If you live in an apartment building, nursing home, or other multi-unit facility and receive service through your building, contact the property manager or TV provider if you notice that channels are missing. They may need to adjust the building's antenna to receive all local channels.

When do I need to rescan?

You should monitor local TV broadcasts for public service announcements, "crawls" across the top or bottom of your TV screen, and other messages. TV stations that have an upcoming change are required to provide notice at least 30 days before their transition.

You can check the FCC's website at www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps for an interactive map. You'll be able to insert your address to see the time period for when frequency changes may happen at your local stations.

You should plan to rescan on the "Rescan Days" announced by your local TV stations and any other time when you notice a station is missing.

What do I do if rescanning doesn't work?

If you notice a station is missing, always rescan first. Sometimes your station may decrease its power or go off the air for short periods to work on its antennas. This usually occurs late at night or the middle of the day, so if rescanning doesn't work during those times, you should try it again during evening "prime time" hours.

In rare instances, you may need to reposition or replace your antenna. If rescanning does not work, call your local station to see if there is any other action that you need to take.

How do I rescan?

Rescanning may also be referred to as auto-tuning, channel set-up, channel scan, channel search, auto-scan, auto-program, or other terminology depending on your TV make and model. Instructions are similar across the board and typically include these steps:

- 1** Press “set-up” or “menu” on the TV remote control or converter box.
- 2** Select “channels,” “antenna,” or other similar terminology.
- 3** Click “scan,” “auto-tune,” “channel search,” “auto-program,” or other similar terminology.
- 4** The TV will do the rest. The process usually takes just a few minutes.

For more information on how to rescan, visit the FCC website, which includes an instructional video, at www.fcc.gov/rescan.

Do I need to buy a new antenna or any other equipment?

In most cases, no. In limited cases, viewers with a UHF-only antenna may need a new antenna. Additional information on over-the-air TV rooftop and indoor antennas can be found at www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/antennas-and-digital-television.

What if I need more help?

Visit www.fcc.gov/TVrescan and www.tvanswers.org for more information.

If you continue to have questions about how to rescan, please contact the FCC call center toll-free by dialing 1-888-CALLFCC (1-888-225-5322) and pressing “6” to speak to a help desk representative. The call center is staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Eastern time, seven days a week, to enable consumers throughout the country to obtain assistance during evening and weekend hours.

If you rescan your TV and still can't find a particular channel, check your TV or converter box owner's manual or website for troubleshooting help and customer service contact information. You may also want to check with the local TV station to see if it has been experiencing any service issues in your area.



Online Resources

Federal Communications Commission

TV Rescan Homepage: www.fcc.gov/TVrescan

Remember to Rescan (Video): www.fcc.gov/rescan

Interactive TV Reception Map:
www.fcc.gov/media/engineering/dtvmaps

Consumer Guide – Antennas and Digital Television:
www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/antennas-and-digital-television

TV Rescan FAQs:
www.fcc.gov/about-fcc/fcc-initiatives/tv-rescan/tv-rescan-faqs-what-consumers-should-do

National Association of Broadcasters

TV Answers (homepage, includes zip code search):
www.tvanswers.org

Messaging Tools for Partners:
www.tvanswers.org/resources/partners

TV Answers Blog: blog.tvanswers.org



Quick Start Guide

Why You Should Rescan Your TV if You Use an Antenna

Sometimes over-the-air TV channels need to be updated. Familiar stations may change frequencies and new stations may become available. If you watch over-the-air TV using an antenna, you should periodically rescan your TV to update your available channels. It's a good habit to get into. You might even find channels you didn't know you could see.

How to Start a Rescan

Some TVs rescan automatically. If yours doesn't, select "channel scan" or "auto-tune," or similar function from your TV remote control or converter box menu to start the scanning process. You can usually find instructions by pressing the "set-up" or "menu" buttons. If you need further assistance, you can also visit the FCC website at www.fcc.gov/TVrescan or call 1-888-CALLFCC (1-888-225-5322) and select option "6."

Equipment Details

If you rescan your TV and still can't find a particular channel, check your TV or converter box owner's manual or website for troubleshooting help and customer service contact information. You may also want to check with the local TV station to see if it has been experiencing any service issues in your area.

Installing New Equipment

When installing a converter box or digital television, follow the set-up instructions for scanning or auto-tuning for available channels.



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