

Will My TV Be Obsolete In February 2009?

Tech Talk by *Steve Metcalf, Gibson Sound & Vision*

I get asked this question on an almost daily basis: "What is happening with broadcasting? Will I have to throw out my TV in 2009?". The answer very simply is: No. Your TV is fine and you don't have to worry about replacing it.



Here is the real deal about broadcasting and broadcasting changes. In February 2009 the United States will shut down the broadcast of analog television signals over the airwaves. This does not affect Canadian TV Stations as they are not under the legislative power of the US government. This does not affect

cable TV distribution (since it is a closed circuit) and no over the air analog broadcast is involved in delivering cable TV to your home.

Once upon a time, (when cable TV had only 13 channels and many of us used an antenna to pick up UHF channels), we had to purchase a little silver box that dangled from the back of our TV. This little silver box performed the task of "tuning" our television to the higher channels that the TV would otherwise be unable to see. After a few years, cable TV companies increased the channel selection into the higher channels. In order to see these channels we would have to get a "set top box" because our TV was again unable to retrieve a picture in the higher channel range.

Eventually TV manufacturers began building these boxes inside the TV as a part of the regular tuner and for many years, we could simply plug a cable into the back of the TV set and watch channels 2-74 without any extra boxes or complexity. With the advent of digital cable, the box came back.

When Canada changes it's broadcasting structure in 2011, you will need a digital tuner to pick up any broadcast over-the-air. Cable and Satellite however, will still come to your home via the same means as it does today.



25 Columbia St. E.
Waterloo
519.746.8030

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