

# The 2009 Digital TV Transition

## Marathon Recommendations

by Sharleen Nelson

The federal government has set February 17, 2009 as the date when all full-power analog television broadcast signals will be replaced by a digital signal. This means that an analog TV set will no longer be able to receive over-the-air programming unless it is connected to a digital tuner. Over-the-air signals include local channels that you can currently pick up using an antenna or "rabbit ears."

Most Marathon coaches are equipped with a satellite (DirecTV) system, and all coaches come with a cable input, which the DTV transition will not affect. Customers that own Marathon coach #1080 or higher are already equipped for digital transition. However, if you own coach #1079 or lower, you probably won't be able to receive over-the-air signals through your antenna. How the digital transition will affect individual coach owners depends on the coaches' current setup. Marathon recommends that all owners contact one of the four service centers (Oregon, Florida, California, or Texas) for an evaluation of their particular coach.

Marathon's service technicians will be able to determine a course of action based on the era of the equipment (does the system operate by remote control?), the location of the equipment within the coach, user preferences, and cost considerations. Options to consider might include the use of a single converter box, in which one channel is viewed at a time but can also be viewed on one or all TVs, or installation of multiple converter boxes, in which different channels can be viewed simultaneously on multiple TVs. After testing numerous boxes, Marathon recommends the Zenith DTT900, which is backed by reputable research and testing conducted by a leading consumer publication.

If you are unsure how the projected February 2009 digital transition might affect the TVs in your coach, please contact Marathon's Oregon technical service department at (800) 365-0156. Additional information and some frequently asked questions can also be found at the following Internet Web sites:

[www.dtv.gov/](http://www.dtv.gov/)

[www.dtvtransition.org](http://www.dtvtransition.org)

[www.dtvanswers.com/](http://www.dtvanswers.com/)

[www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/digitaltv.html/](http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/digitaltv.html/) •

## DIGITAL TV FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** Do I have to buy or replace my over-the-air antennae?

**A:** No. Your current antennae will work with the converter box.

**Q:** Will my VCR, DVD player, camcorder, and gaming console be compatible with a digital TV set, and can I hook up more than one TV and video recorder to a single digital-to-analog converter box?

**A:** Your existing analog equipment will work on a digital TV set, but video will display only in

the designated resolution available for each product. You will need a separate digital-to-analog converter box for each TV or other device, such as a VCR that only has an analog tuner.

**Q:** Will digital-to-analog converter boxes also convert digital closed captioning?

**A:** Yes. FCC rules require that digital-to-analog converter boxes convert all over-the-air digital closed captioning to display on analog TV sets.