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## What do I need to do to watch free-to-air digital TV?

***By the end of 2010, Maltese free-to-air analogue TV will be upgraded to digital. This is what you need to do to watch free-to-air TV in digital from January 2011 onwards.***

First of all, you will need a UHF aerial to receive the digital television broadcasts. This aerial is the same conventional aerial used to watch Maltese television stations other than TVM. There is no such thing as a digital aerial, and so if you already have such an aerial (see picture), you will not need a new aerial unless it is broken. It is possible, however, that you would need to turn the aerial to point to the nearest transmitter. More information on this will be provided towards the end of next year when the transmitter sites are known.



Second of all, you need a digital receiver to decode the digital signals. If you have a modern flat-panel TV, it is likely that the TV has a digital tuner built-in, in which case you are ready for digital. Otherwise, you will need a digital terrestrial set-top box. The set-top box unscrambles digital signals and turns them back into sound and pictures which you can watch on your analogue TV.

Installing a set-top box is relatively straightforward. Simply unplug the aerial cable from the TV set and plug it into the set-top box. Next, plug one end of the cable supplied with the set-top box to the set-top box itself, and the other end to the television. When buying a set-top box, make sure that the correct cable supplied is compatible with your TV and that the user manual supplied is in English and/or Maltese. If you have a video recorder, you will also need a second cable to connect the set-top box to the video recorder.

If you intend to buy a new TV, it would be wise to choose a TV with a digital tuner (DVB-T) built-in so that you will not need a digital set-top box if you wish to watch free-to-air TV in digital in the future. It is therefore advisable to verify the type of tuner installed with the outlet before you buy the TV.

Last of all, sit back on your sofa, relax, and watch your favourite TV programmes in digital.