

DIGITAL TELEVISION COMPARING THE FORMATS

Digital television, or DTV, is the new industry standard for broadcasting picture and sound using digital signals, allowing for dramatic improvements in both picture and sound quality vs. conventional NTSC analog programming. DTV programming can be delivered in either of two basic formats: standard analog definition (SDTV) or high definition (HDTV).

DTV Format Comparison					
Transmission Type	Analog	Digital	Digital	Digital	Digital
	NTSC	Standard Definition	Standard Definition	High Definition	High Definition
Maximum Resolution	480i	480i	480p	720p	1080i
Aspect Ratio	4:3	4:3	4:3 or 16:9	16:9	16:9
Channel Capacity*	1	5-6	5-6	1-2	1
Description	Standard TV as we know it today	Good Picture and Sound — DVD or DBS Quality	Better, depending on source; can be outstanding	Best Possible	Best Possible

*Digital television provides the opportunity to distribute multiple channels of programming within a frequency range. This is due to the compression/distribution schemes that a broadcaster/cable caster may utilize to distribute more content. As a rule of thumb, the higher definition of signal, the fewer channels you can distribute based on the bandwidth available.