

The banner features a background image of fiber optic cables and network equipment. The text "Michigan State University" is in a smaller, dark green font at the top, and "Telecommunication Systems" is in a larger, bold, dark green font below it.

Michigan State University Telecommunication Systems

Changes to campus cable TV could impact you?

The television world is changing dramatically in 2009. As you've been hearing for the past couple years through your home television, over-the-air stations, like those affiliated with ABC, NBC, CBS, FOX and PBS, are in the process of switching from analog to digital signals. This switch is expected to finish June 12, 2009, and affects consumers who receive their television signal from an antenna.

Separate from that *transition*, cable providers like Comcast and MSU are beginning their *migration* from analog to digital. This migration means that the number of channels available to an analog television will be reduced, and eventually phased out. They will be replaced with high-quality, high-definition channels that are completely digital. This migration allows cable providers to offer more services, including high-definition programming to their customers.

This *migration* only affects faculty, staff and students who receive their television programming from MSU.

What this means for you at MSU

MSU is committed to providing the best in educational and entertainment programming to all users. Starting this fall semester, the Physical Plant's Telecommunication Systems department will migrate Entertainment Television (ETV) programming from analog to digital. If you currently have access to channels 23 through 53, then you have ETV. If you do not have a digital television, or an MSU cable converter box, you will no longer receive this entertainment programming.

All televisions that are capable of receiving ClearQAM (also known as QAM) signals will still work. (To test whether your TV is ClearQAM-capable, see instructions below or check the television's manual.) If your TV is unable to receive these signals, you may be required to purchase an MSU cable converter box, which will be available from various places on campus starting this summer (check out our website at www.cabletv.msu.edu for more details).

Instructional Television (ITV) programming for cable subscribers will not be impacted. This includes channels 2 through 18. ITV is free to everyone on campus, and includes all of the Interactive Video Services (IVS), Residence Hall Association (RHA), international and local broadcasting channels.

Test your TV's compatibility now

To check whether your television is compatible now to view digital channels, try tuning to channel 19.1, for example. (You may see a dot (.) or dash (-) button on your remote to tune to these digital channels). MSU already has a wide range of HD programming available in digital format for you to view. If you are unable to tune your TV to 19.1 at this time, then your TV is not digital-compatible and you will need to purchase an MSU cable converter box or a digital-ready TV prior to fall semester 2009. Check out the MSU Cable TV information website at www.cabletv.msu.edu for more information, including FAQs, or to view the current line-up.

If you have any questions about this change, contact Telecommunication Systems Customer Service at 3-5515, or e-mail telesyst@pplant.msu.edu.