

Low-Power Television Q&A

What is low-power television (LPTV)?

Low-power television is a method of broadcasting a television signal to a small area. While full-power television stations, such as commercial network affiliates and public TV stations, broadcast signals to large geographic areas, low-power TV stations broadcast to smaller areas.

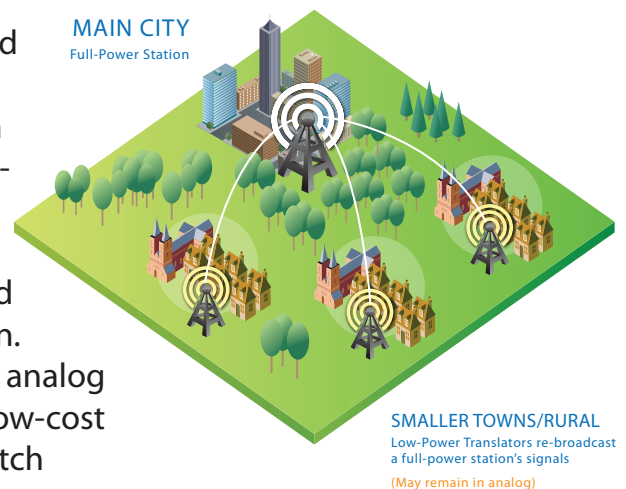
While the law requires every full-power station to go completely digital by June 12, 2009, it does not apply to low-power stations. There are two major types of low-power TV stations, which may continue broadcasting in analog after the transition:

- Community stations: These independently owned and operated stations are typically not affiliated with a major commercial or public TV network.
- Translator stations: These stations serve small towns and rural areas. These stations relay a network or public station's programming to boost a station's signal strength to remote areas.

What does this mean for people who watch LPTV?

The law requires all *full-power* television stations to begin broadcasting exclusively in a digital format after June 12, 2009. However, the law does not apply to small low-power stations, which may continue broadcasting in the analog format. Most digital converter boxes on the market are intended to be used with existing analog TV sets, but do not allow these sets to receive analog signals.

The best way to continue watching both analog and digital programming is with a new TV set that has both analog and digital tuners. A lower-cost option is to purchase a converter box with an "analog pass-through" capability (visit www.LPTVAnswers.com for a list of boxes with this feature) to ensure viewers can easily watch both full-power digital and low-power analog programming after the transition. Viewers who purchase a converter box without the analog pass-through feature will also need to purchase a low-cost "antenna splitter" device that will allow them to watch both types of programming.



For more information, please visit www.LPTVAnswers.com

How do I know if I am watching LPTV?

If you receive television over the air using an antenna, and the programming you watch is not affiliated with a major network (ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox, CW, Ion or PBS), you could be watching a low-power television station. Additionally, if you live in a small town or community that is far from a full-power network or a commercial or public TV station, you may be watching network programming provided by a low-power translator.

You are likely watching a translator station if the channel number you receive is different from the one identified and branded in the local station's news programming. For example, if News 5 comes in on a different channel number like 13 or 37, you are likely watching TV from a low-power translator. A full list of low-power stations by state and community is available at www.ntia.doc.gov/dtvcoupon/LPTVmap.html.

What do I do if I watch LPTV?

If you use an antenna to watch both full- and low-power television stations, you have three options:

- Get a new TV set – Since new TV sets have both analog and digital tuners, this is the best way to ensure that you can easily receive all TV programming.
- Get a converter box with an “analog pass-through” feature – These boxes allow digital signals to be viewed on your existing television set, but also allow analog signals to reach your set. A list of converter boxes with the analog pass-through option is available at www.LPTVAnswers.com.
- Get an “antenna splitter” – Viewers who have converter boxes without the “analog pass-through” option can install a simple antenna splitter device, which bypasses the converter box to send analog signals to your existing TV set. Learn more about splitters at www.LPTVAnswers.com/splitter.



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