

Waddington House, Edgedale Road, Sheffield. Digital TV reception

Analogue television will be switched off in June next year, so if you are still watching analogue TV you will need to 'go digital' before then. If you only get five channels you are using analogue so you will need to switch to digital. If you get more than five channels you have already switched to digital so you don't need to do anything.

There is no advantage in waiting until the last moment to switch to digital; in fact it would be a good idea to think about it now. The purpose of this leaflet is to give you some information about how you can switch to digital. This leaflet is specifically intended for Waddington House. Because there are special TV reception problems at Waddington House the situation is not the same as at most other places. For this reason any general advice in newspapers or on TV might not be correct for you. If you find all this a bit confusing we suggest you discuss this leaflet with younger relatives or with Don or Karen. If you go shopping for digital equipment take this leaflet with you.

Waddington House is 'different' because TV reception from an aerial is very difficult. There are just a few places like this in Sheffield, and Waddington House happens to be one of them. After analogue TV has been turned off digital reception from an aerial will not be reliable. For this reason the TV system provides you with satellite signals as well as aerial signals. Satellite is your route to digital TV.

It makes no difference to you when you are watching TV whether you get your digital reception from an aerial or from satellite, but it's important that you buy the correct equipment in the first place. Otherwise you will waste money. This includes digital TV sets, set-top boxes, and recorders. Any digital equipment you buy should be intended for satellite reception (Freesat), not aerial reception (Freeview).

Which kind of digital equipment should you buy?

Equipment for satellite reception will have a Freesat badge like this:



Look for this symbol and the word 'Freesat'. Alternatively you can have Sky TV, but of course that means paying a monthly subscription. There is no subscription for Freesat.

Which kind of digital equipment should you be careful to avoid?

Digital reception from an aerial is called 'Freeview'. Equipment for aerial reception will have a Freeview badge like this:



If you try to use Freeview equipment at Waddington House you will only get a few channels, and reception might not be reliable. So don't buy Freeview equipment.

Freesat equipment

This is a list of Freesat receivers available in Sept 2010. These are boxes that sit under your TV set. The ones with a number in the 'PVR' column will record TV programmes as well as let you watch them, so they act as a video recorder as well as a receiver. These receiver/recorders need two satellite connections, and the TV system provides these.

All these receivers are High Definition (HD), so if you have a fairly new flat screen TV you will be able to view in HD. All these receivers will work with any TV set. My personal recommendation is for Humax equipment.

It's still possible to buy non-HD receivers and these are cheaper (£50 to 60) but they are rapidly going out of production. If you want a non-HD receiver ask your TV dealer about standard definition Freesat receivers.

Name	Price	High definition	Tuners	CI slots	CAM	Symbol rate range	DisEqC	EPG days	PVR	UK Free TV	UK Pay TV	Euro Free TV	Euro Pay TV	Feedhunter	Tinkerer	Comments
Bush BFSAT01HD	£120	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Easy to set up and use but slow to scan. Great HD/SD performance at a bargain price
Goodmans GFSAT200HD	£150	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Navigation could be better but looks good and offers very good AV performance
Goodmans GFSDR500HD	£270	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	500 GB	●	-	-	-	-	-	Similar to the Grundig 500HD, this twin-tuner HD/SD PVR has good upscaling to 1080i
Grundig GUFSA01HD	£150	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Nearly a clone of the Bush HD but more expensive. Easy to use and excellent pictures
Grundig GUFSDTR500HD	£280	●	2x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	500 GB	●	-	●	-	-	-	This twin-tuner PVR is simple to use. Good picture, but limited for non-Freesat use
Humax Focsat-HD	£150	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	1.2	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Best of the bunch is the enthusiasts' choice; like a 'real' sat receiver with better features
Humax Focsat-HDR	£299	●	2x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	1.2	7	320 GB	●	-	●	-	-	-	The first Freesat PVR builds on the success of the Focsat-HD. Great picture, multi-sat friendly
Metronic Sat HD 100	£150	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	1.2	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Another zapper box offers JPEG and MP3 playback. Great HD and SD via HDMI
Panasonic DMR-BS880	£850	●	2x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	500 GB	●	-	-	-	-	-	Pricely twin-tuner HDD/Blu-ray recorder has stacks of features but can be slow to operate
Sagem DSI86 HD	£130	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	-	7	-	●	-	●	-	-	-	Competent HD/SD box, but limited for non-Freesat use and lacking features
Sagem DTR 94500	£250	●	2x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	1000- 30000	-	7	500 GB	●	-	●	-	-	-	500GB PVR with dual SD/HD recording. SD upscaling a bonus, but lacks killer features
Technisat HDFS	£175	●	1x DVB-S/ S2	-	-	2000- 45000	1.2	7	Via USB	●	-	●	-	-	-	HD reception, multimedia streaming and has USB PVR update. Excellent

Subtitles

All Freesat equipment will show subtitles. If you are particularly concerned about this ask the dealer to demonstrate the subtitles before you buy.

If you want Sky

The TV distribution system provides all the Sky signals. There are two connections on the wall socket, so you can have Sky+ or Sky HD if you wish. If you want Sky just contact them in the normal way and arrange for the installation. The installer will not need to install a dish; all he will need to do is connect to the wall socket in your living room.

If you buy a new TV set

There's no need to buy a new TV set until the old one wears out, unless you want to. You can use your old TV set with a Freesat receiver. But when you do buy a new TV set you should consider getting one with Freesat built in. That will save you having to get a separate receiver, although of course if you want to record TV programmes you will still need a receiver/recorder.

All new TV sets have Freeview (digital from an aerial) built in. Unfortunately, at Waddington House Freeview reception is poor.

Here's a list of TV sets that have Freesat built in. If these are too expensive don't worry, just buy any other TV set and use it with a Freesat receiver.

Name	Price	Type & screen size	Panel resolution	Tuners	Freeview HD	Freesat	CI slot	EPG days	UK Free TV	UK Pay TV	Euro Free TV	Euro Pay TV	Feedhunter	Tinkerer	Comments	Percentage score
Cello C3298DVB IP	£499	LCD 32in	1920x 1080	1 x DTT 1x analogue	-	-	●	7	●	●	-	-	-	-	Widget-based news and weather, podcasts, iPlayer, YouTube, media streaming/playback. Pity about the poor picture and sound, though	67
LG 42LF7700	£950	LCD 42in	1920x 1080	1 x DVB-S/2, 1 x DTT, 1 x analogue	-	●	●	8	●	●	●	●	-	-	LG's first stab at a Freesat/Freeview IDTV delivers mid-range AV performance but isn't great for multi-sat use	75
LG 47LE8900	£2,100	LCD 47in	1920x 1080	1 x DTT (HD)	●	-	●	7	●	●	-	-	-	-	Expensive Full LED backlit TV with Freeview HD tuner. Gorgeous design and superb HD picture quality, though SD is a bit lacking	84
Panasonic TX-P42V10	£1,725	Plasma 42in	1920x 1080	1 x DVB-S/2, 1 x DTT, 1 x analogue	-	●	●	7	●	●	●	●	-	-	42in plasma boasts thin, eco-friendly NeoPDP tech and generally good pictures. Widget web TV apps too	83
Panasonic TX-P46G20	£1,300	Plasma 46in	1920x 1080	1 x DVB-S/2, 1 x DTT, 1 x analogue	-	●	7	●	●	-	-	-	-	-	Freeview HD and Freesat HD tuners, superb HD pictures and bonus Web TV apps on a great combi TV. Speakers could be better though	90
Sony KDL- 40W5810	£1,000	LCD 40in	1920x 1080	1 x DVB-S/2, 1 x DTT, 1 x analogue	-	●	●	7	●	-	●	●	-	-	Freesat IDTV with consistently good picture quality both SD and HD. Web-enabled Applicast service included, but limited content	81

Connections

When you get your new Freesat receiver (or TV set with Freesat built in), you will need to connect it to the satellite sockets on the aerial wallplate in the corner of your living room. As well as the ordinary aerial socket the wallplate has two screw-type sockets for satellite. Receivers that also record need two connections, one to each socket. To make the connection you need either one or two short leads with the screw-type connectors on each end. These connectors are called 'f' types. These short leads are called 'flyleads' and they should not cost more than a few pounds.



You also need to connect the receiver to your TV set. This is done using either a SCART lead or an HDMI lead. Most likely one of these will be supplied with the receiver. If not, do not pay more than about £10 for one. The very expensive SCART and HDMI leads are a rip-off.

Where to buy?

All major TV shops sell Freesat equipment, or of course you can buy on the Internet.

Any questions?

Ring me on 01709 813419 or 07860 610519 or email me on bill@wrightsaerials.tv

Best regards

Bill Wright, TV system installer.