

# HDTV - Better Quality, Smart Entertainment

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HDTV, short for high definition television, is the newest greatest technology when it comes to television viewing. It seems that most television shows and newscasts have a little logo at the bottom of the screen indicating that the program is available for HDTV. And there are countless commercials promoting HDTV. But what exactly is HDTV? Can it be used with your existing television? And is HDTV really any better than regular television? Those are the questions that I will attempt to answer for you.

## WHAT IS HDTV?

First HDTV is a television broadcasting system. HDTV is broadcast digitally versus via analog. HDTV has a significantly higher resolution than traditional formats. HDTV was first introduced to the United States in the late 1990s and was immediately met with great excitement by sports buffs, but didn't really gain popularity with the majority of America until the last couple of years.

## BENEFITS

HDTV has much greater lineal resolution than regular television, or standard-definition television. Therefore, HDTV allows much greater detail in the picture to be shared with the viewer. HDTV is also much better for viewing programs in wide screen than analog TV, as it allows for less distortion. HDTV not only allows more detail but allows the picture to be clearer and less blurred. The motion of characters on your TV will appear smoother and colors will be brighter and more true-to-life.

Another, less known, benefit of HDTV is that it allows for more opportunities for surround sound. An HDTV is better equipped to work with sound systems, making it possible for a viewer to obtain a more complete surround sound experience and truly enjoy the television experience. HDTV is typically viewed with Dolby Digital sound, the same sound used in many movie theaters. Thus, making watching a movie at home, a lot like watching a movie in the theater without the people and the lines! And for those of you who love sports but can't get to the game, watching the game in HDTV makes the experience much more life like and enjoyable.

## NEGATIVES

While, HDTV has great benefits, there are some downsides. The biggest downside to most consumers is that HDTV is not compatible with any analog TV and in order to work properly needs to be viewed on a television specifically made to broadcast HDTV programs. What this means, is that you will once again have to experience the chaos of trying to select the perfect television in order to enjoy HDTV. At the current time, prices for televisions equipped with HDTV's are slightly higher than for televisions not equipped with HDTV capability. However, as HDTV moves into the more mainstream, this is sure to change.

Whether HDTV is "better" than standard definition television is a matter of personal preference. However, the evidence points to the conclusion that HDTV is the way of the future. Just as color televisions replaced black and white, with time HDTV will replace standard definition television and change the way the world watches television once again. It is clear that HDTV has significant benefits over standard definition television and in all likelihood really is "better" TV.

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