

Do I need an aerial?

Yes, Freeview is received through the TV aerial, so once you know you are in coverage all you need is a correctly aligned aerial. You can check the channels available at your address by using our coverage checker:

<http://www.freeview.co.uk/availability>

The aerial needs to be connected to the aerial point in your living room with a good quality shielded aerial cable. Then you are ready to connect it to a Freeview digital TV, recorder or box.

For most homes an existing aerial will work, as long as it is not out of position or damaged by the weather. If you have previously had a satellite dish installed the cable to the TV aerial may have been cut so you will need to make sure you have access to a working aerial cable.

If you do need a new aerial you need to employ an aerial installer (see below). Based on industry guidance, installation is likely to cost between £60 and £180, and an additional socket costs around £45.

Loft aerials and portable set top aerials may work in areas where there is good reception but may be subject to electrical interference from other domestic appliances.

If your current picture quality is poor, you might have a damaged aerial or cable that needs attention from a professional installer.

In some cases the aerial will need to be upgraded to receive all the channels available to you.

A local installer will understand local circumstances and geography and suggest the best option available to you.

- **Confederation of Aerial Industries (CAI) Telephone 01923 803030**
<http://www.cai.org.uk/members/member-search/postcode-search>
- **Find a digital professional at getmedigital.com**
<http://www.getmedigital.com/search>

How do I check that my aerial works?

Make sure your aerial cable is securely plugged into the socket in the back of your TV or set top box, and also into the socket on the wall.

In the vast majority of cases this is all you need to do to receive Freeview.

If there is no signal then your aerial socket may not be connected to the aerial or the cable is cut or damaged: you will need to have a look at the aerial and check if the cable runs into the building.

If your picture is breaking up, however, try re-tuning your digital TV or Freeview box if you are using one. Then check that the aerial is pointing in the right direction (check to see where your neighbours' aerials are pointing) and the cable is not damaged.

If the picture is still not good, you can use this online diagnostic tool to establish if there may be a problem with your transmitter.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/transmitters/>

Digital UK has a similar service which can be found here;
<http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/engineeringworks>

If the problem is with the local transmitter, then you don't need to do anything. This will need fixing by a professional.



Freeview aerial guide

What is a digital aerial?

There is no such thing as a digital aerial. Most existing aerials will work with Freeview and only a small number will experience problems.

What is a wideband aerial and why might I need one?

Wideband aerials receive a wider range of frequencies, and may be needed in some areas to allow for changes in signal frequencies over time. Your installer will tell you if you need one.
