

TV viewers warned to avoid equipment that they don't need

# Aerial advice

## DIGITAL TELEVISION

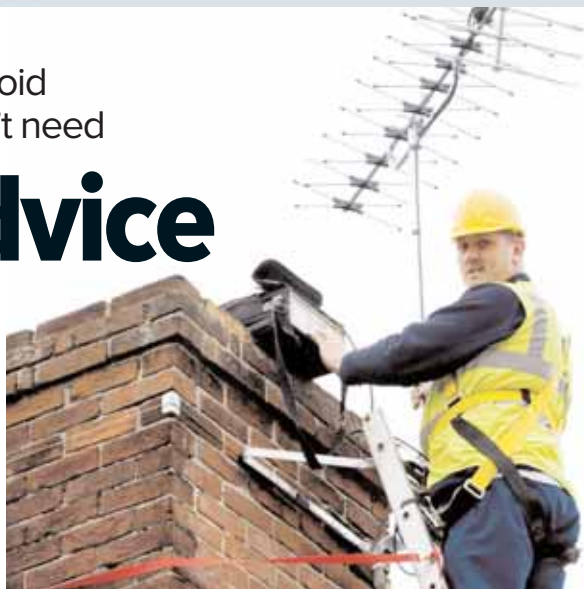
Homeowners are being urged not to get tricked into paying for unnecessary equipment in the run-up to the switchover to digital television.

The switchover will occur on a regional basis – starting in Whitehaven, Cumbria, next month – until 2012, when the analogue signal will disappear completely.

Once the signal has gone in each area, viewers will need a Freeview box for each TV in their home, or a Sky or cable service.

But some people with Freeview will also need to have their rooftop aerial replaced or upgraded to get a decent signal.

And Digital UK, which is leading the switchover process, says some cowboy



Get switched on about who should be advising you



traders have cold-called homeowners to get them to buy aerials that they don't need.

A spokesman said: 'We have had reports of this happening on a sporadic basis. We are working very closely with trading standards and the police to track it and make sure that if it becomes a bigger problem, we can crack down on it.'

He added: 'Nobody should visit your house in relation to digital switchover without making a prior appointment.'

Digital UK says that only a small proportion of homes will need a new aerial and, as a rule, if you have good reception now, you'll get decent digital reception when the signal is boosted by the switchover.

### TAKE ACTION!

■ If your aerial needs work, get more than one quote. The cost should be between £80 and £150, or more if you live in a high building.  
■ Householders should contact traders licensed under the government's Registered Digital Installer scheme at [www.rdi-lb.tv](http://www.rdi-lb.tv)

or on 01246 252857.  
■ Extra aerial points should cost between £45 and £55. For portable televisions you'll need an indoor digital aerial; look for our test next month.  
■ Go to [www.which.co.uk/digitaltv](http://www.which.co.uk/digitaltv) for more information on digital television.

## In brief

### CHECK YOUR CHILD'S FOOD

■ Sweets and crisps are no longer allowed in school tuck shops or vending machines from this month. Instead schools have to provide healthier snacks such as fruit and yogurt. Go to [www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk](http://www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk) for details on the changes and other tips on healthy eating for your child.



### TRY A NEW CHEF

■ Watch out for 28-year-old chef Nathan Outlaw, whose new restaurant has made it into the top 40 of the 2008 *Good Food Guide*. Nathan's Cornwall eaterie, called Restaurant Nathan Outlaw, joins established chefs such as Heston Blumenthal at the top of our new-look guide, which features awards for the best family restaurants. See page 44 for our half-price book offer.

### UPDATE DRIVING KNOWLEDGE

■ The Driving Standards Agency has increased the number of questions in the theory test for car and motorcycle candidates from 35 to 50, in a bid to develop higher driving standards and awareness of road safety. But it will also cost more to take the test, with the fee rising to £28.50 from £21.50. Visit



[www.dsa.gov.uk](http://www.dsa.gov.uk) for details.

### CALL OUR SERVICES TEAM

■ We'll be taking calls on 27 September to give advice on key services, including phone and internet services, switching utility providers, green issues, using tradespeople and professionals and consumer rights online and on the high street. Call 01992 822800 or 0845 307 4000 between 10am and 3pm, quoting your Which? membership number. We'd also like feedback on the latest services reports – including optometrists, renting and letting, breakdown services and boiler servicing – and suggestions for future topics.

## Gadgeteer The brush with brains

It's the satnav of the bathroom – a toothbrush that tells you where you're going wrong with your teeth cleaning. The Oral B Triumph with SmartGuide has a wireless LCD display unit that provides instant feedback on your technique, making sure you brush for two minutes, use the right amount of pressure and change the brush head when needed. It's available for £139.99 from Boots, Amazon and selected department stores, but you might want to wait for our full verdict, following testing, in December.

