

AN INTRODUCTION TO FREEVIEW

What is Freeview? It is the name for a New Zealand group of broadcasters who got together and formed a company so they could broadcast free digital TV.

They needed to get into digital TV because by end-2013, all the analogue TV channels that have been around since 1959 will be turned off. Also, they didn't want PAY TV (SKY) to be the only digital TV supplier in the country.

They have a website which explains everything. It can be found at http://www.freeviewnz.tv/what_is_freeview/
If clicking this doesn't work, type it into your browser or use the link on the Axino-tech "links" page.

There are 2 ways to get Freeview in New Zealand - Satellite or by UHF.

The UHF system is capable of high-definition pictures, but is not available over the whole country; only in main centres at this stage.

Satellite is available everywhere, but is not high definition.

ABOUT SATELLITE FREEVIEW



- Needs a dish. It could be an old SKY dish, and yes, you can get Freeview AND SKY from the same dish.
- It costs a bit more to have a dish installed than does a UHF aerial.
- You need a satellite receiver.
- You don't get high-definition.
- You get a couple more programmes than are on UHF; Stratos, ShineTV and Cue.

ABOUT UHF FREEVIEW



- No unsightly dish. A UHF antenna is a bit cheaper than a dish.
- You need a terrestrial Freeview receiver. (Unless you have a Freeview TV already)
- You get high-definition (when broadcast)
- You don't get all the Freeview programmes. Stratos, ShineTV and Cue are only satellite.

Do you need a new TV for Freeview? Not unless you want high definition (HD). A Freeview receiver can connect to any old TV but unless you have a HD set, you will only get standard definition pictures. Some TV's do have UHF Freeview built-in. As you can see, its not free at all because you have to buy the hardware.