

Wright's Aerials

Waddington House, Edgedale Road, Sheffield. TV distribution system

To all the residents of Waddington House

'Johnnie' Johnson Housing has asked us to upgrade the TV distribution system in your building. This leaflet is intended to clarify things for you as much as possible.

If you are worried about the switch to digital TV, please remember that if you are quite happy with the TV channels you can get now there is no need for you to buy digital equipment or anything else at present. You can wait until 2011.

Please read this leaflet carefully. It has been prepared specifically for the residents of Waddington House and the contents are tailored to the TV reception possibilities available to you.

Reception problems

As you probably know Waddington House is in a very poor TV reception area. Reception from the local Sheffield transmitter is impossible because of the high ground across the road, so we have to use the Belmont TV mast, which is in Lincolnshire. This means that:

- Reception can be unreliable because Belmont is a long way away.
- There is no Channel Five from the aerial. We have to use a satellite receiver for Channel Five.
- Digital reception from the aerial is very poor, with only a few channels available.

What's the solution?

Read the rest of this leaflet to find the best solution for you.

Digital TV

Britain is gradually changing over to digital TV. In 2011 the old familiar analogue TV will end in Sheffield. By then you will need to have bought a digital box or a digital TV. But it's important that you read this leaflet before you buy anything.

Digital TV by satellite

Because there are quite a few places like Edgedale Road, where the new digital TV from an aerial doesn't work very well, the government has made sure that you can get all your old familiar TV channels (and more) from satellite. This is nothing to do with Sky, by the way.

Satellite TV works anywhere. It doesn't make any difference whether you are in a 'bad reception area' or not. Satellite will always give perfect reception. If you are quite happy with your TV as it is, you don't need to do anything until 2011. But if you want more channels or if you want better reception you should think about getting a digital satellite box.

Which kind of digital box should you buy?

This is important. There is no point in you buying a digital box that works from an aerial, because of the poor reception. Even after analogue TV finishes in 2011 digital reception at Waddington House will not be good. You should buy a digital box that works from satellite.

Freeview boxes work from an aerial, and they are not suitable. You need to buy a Freesat box or a TV set with Freesat built in. Or you could subscribe to Sky.

Watching TV from satellite is no different to watching TV from an aerial. But because aerial reception is poor at Waddington House you should always go for the satellite option.

You don't need to subscribe to Sky

Unless you want to subscribe to Sky you should buy a BBC/ITV Freesat box from an electrical retailer. Do not buy a Sky Freesat box or a Freeview box by mistake. Suitable BBC/ITV Freesat boxes are listed here:

Make	Model	Approx. cost
Grundig	GUF SAT01	£64
Bush	BFSAT01SD	£54
Goodmans	GFSAT100SD	£54

Recording your programmes

You can carry on using your existing VCR (video recorder) just as you do now until 2011. If you still have it after then you will need to connect it to a Freesat box. If you buy a new recorder now or later make sure it is one that has everything built in to record from satellite. There are several good Freesat recorders on the market.

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. When you do, it should ideally have BBC/ITV Freesat built in. As yet there is only one make with Freesat, and that is Panasonic. Suitable Panasonic models are TX-32LZD81, TX-37LZD81, TH-46PZ81B, and TH-50PZ81B. Later this year LG and other makes will have TV sets with Freesat built in.

If you prefer to buy a TV set without Freesat built in, you will need to buy a Freesat box as well. This could work out cheaper than buying a TV set with Freesat built in, but it will mean that you have two remote controls to use instead of one.

Your new TV set will of course have Freeview (digital from an aerial) built in. Unfortunately, at Waddington House Freeview reception is restricted to BBC 1, BBC 2, BBC 3, CBBC, and BBC News, because of the poor reception conditions.

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.

Channel Five

The TV aerial will not receive Channel Five, so we have added a satellite receiver to the distribution system. This receiver adds Channel Five reception to the system. This means that the subtitles are on all the time for everyone. If you are dissatisfied with this you could buy a Freesat box (see above). A Freesat box will, of course, allow you to receive Channel Five independently.

Any questions?

Catch me when I'm at Waddington House (ask Karen) or ring me on 01709 813419.

Regards

Bill Wright