

FAQ

C.G.M. Electronics

The right price, the right advice

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We hope you'll come in or call us, so we can talk to you in person. We are also pleased to offer in-home consultations. But just to get you started, here are a few of the more frequently asked questions that we get.

What is High Definition (HDTV)?

High-definition television (HDTV) is a digital television broadcasting system with higher resolution than traditional television systems. An HDTV compatible television set will not improve the quality of standard channels. To display a superior picture, high definition televisions require a High Definition (HD) signal.

How do I get HD?

You need the following: An HD television or an HD-ready television plus a decoder box (the HD television has a decoder built in). HD service can be purchased through your cable or satellite provider, who will install the necessary HD box.

What's the difference between Plasma & LCD?

Plasma	LCD
Display is made up of cells containing neon-xenon gas in plasma form. When in use, the gas is electrically charged at specific intervals. The charged gas strikes red, green and blue phosphors to create the TV image. Each group of red, green and blue phosphors is called a pixel or picture element.	Display is made up of two layers of transparent material, one of which is coated with a polymer containing individual liquid crystals. Current passes through individual crystals which pass or block light in order to create the display. Because LCD crystals do not produce their own light, an external light source is used to make the image created by the LCD visible to the viewer.

What does 1080p mean?

Our older, analogue television sets are generally displaying broadcasts at 480i. The number refers to the number of vertical lines that the picture is made up of. The letter, i, refers to 'interlaced', indicating that the lines are not all displayed at once on the screen, but just half at any one time. For example, the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th,...479th lines receive the display signal, then a fraction of a second later, the 2nd, 4th, 6th,...receive the display signal. Our eyes can't see the difference, so the display appears as a single image. In a 'progressive' display (ie 480p), the signal is sent down all 480 vertical lines at the same time, creating a smoother image. This is most valuable in motion intensive situations like action movies or sports shows.

Now to HDTV. There are three standards for HDTV...720p, 1080i and 1080p. If it's not one of these, it's not HD. The majority of HD signals are broadcast in 1080i. For specialty channels such as ESPN and Sky Sports, it is common for them to use a 720p picture instead of a 1080i picture simply because they are willing to have fewer lines but a smoother picture.

When choosing between the 720p, 1080i/p it is important to note that you will most likely not be able to tell the difference. 1080i and 720p will look pretty much the same on any TV smaller than 50 inches. Once the TV gets larger than that you will have to most likely want to think about getting 1080p for a better picture.

What is Blu-Ray? Should I be getting that?

Remember 8-track vs VCR? No? Go talk to your parents!

Until recently Blu-Ray and HD-DVD technologies were warring for top spot in the HD media world. Blu-Ray won. If you're shopping for a media player, you likely want a Blu-Ray player. Blu-Ray players all broadcast at 1080p, the highest resolution possible. If your TV is of a lower resolution, it will adjust the display accordingly.

And a couple of the questions we're likely to ask you when you drop in...

Are you doing a renovation or a retrofit?

What are your timelines?

Have you determined your budget?

Have you given any thought to the wiring that will be necessary to get the equipment where you want it?

We look forward to speaking with you.