If you watch TV for free with an antenna, changes may be coming to your local stations that will require you to rescan your set. Rescanning is when your TV finds all the available channels in your area.

From now until 2020, nearly 1,000 stations nationwide must move to new frequencies as directed by the government. We are working with the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) to keep you informed about these upcoming changes, and to know when and how to prepare.

When your local station changes frequencies, it’s called a Rescan Day. Stations will let viewers know in advance if a Rescan Day is coming. On each Rescan Day, rescan your television at the appropriate time to keep watching your favorite programs. You can learn which channels in your area are moving and when on TVAnswers.org.

Rescanning is relatively easy and takes just a few minutes. Select “scan” or “autotune” from your TV or converter box control menu. You can usually find instructions by pressing the “set-up” or “menu” buttons on your remote control. (*TV manufacturers: please modify with instructions specific to your products.*) If you haven’t rescanned your TV recently, you may discover TV channels you didn’t even know you were missing.

Don’t forget about those extra TVs in your bedroom or kitchen that rely on an antenna only and are not connected to your cable or satellite service. Those will need rescanning, too!

Stations are required to move at different times between now and 2020. That means you may have to rescan your TV more than once – each time a station changes frequencies.

Be sure to visit TVAnswers.org for more information, follow their Facebook and Twitter pages for updates and sign up for email and text alerts to stay informed.

September 2018