

LodgeNet Buying Guide for Purchasing New HDTVs

Purchasing new TVs can be a very complicated experience. LodgeNet would like to help you make that purchase easier. Hopefully these considerations and LodgeNet's TV Compatibility Web page will help you with that decision – <http://www.lodgenet.com/services/TVCompatibilityProgram/Pages/Home.aspx>.

- **LodgeNet recommends that hotels evaluate the digital TVs that they are considering in their hotel prior to purchase. Key areas of concern that repeatedly come up include:**
 - Turn on times can vary between manufacturers and models. Evaluate the set(s) that you are considering to ensure that the turn on times meet your expectations.
 - Channel change times can also vary between manufacturers and models. Try tuning with the following sequences to ensure that tuning times meet your expectations. Typical digital tuning times are two to four seconds.
 - Tuning from an analog channel to another analog channel
 - Tuning from an analog channel to a digital channel and back to analog
 - Tuning from a digital channel to another digital channel
 - Evaluate the audio and video quality with the analog or digital programming that you plan to display on the TVs.
 - Analog channels do not look as good on large digital TVs as they did on the smaller analog TVs.
 - LodgeNet does not evaluate any of the above factors when testing TVs for LodgeNet compatibility.
- **Distribution Systems**
 - While digital signals are more robust (immune to interference) than analog signals, the degradation of digital signals is more difficult to troubleshoot. Many different causes result in the commonly reported problems of pixilation or no picture. Analog signals will degrade slower than digital signals, but the effect on the picture will be gradual and generally be less severe. Interference to analog signals is easier to diagnose by the technician. A good technician with proper equipment is key.
- **Cost to Install**
 - Consider having a professional install the TVs in the rooms. You also may need new remotes, or you may need your remotes reprogrammed.
 - You may need a site survey of your MATV system to ensure that it will properly support your new HDTVs and digital programming.
 - Embedded b-LAN™ (EBL) TV models have network technology embedded into the TV set allowing Free-to-Guest (FTG) providers to turn your individual TVs into a network of TVs that can be more cost effectively managed from a central location.
 - Embedded b-LAN (EBL) TV models can be used to provide very cost effective interactive services and Video on Demand (VOD).
 - On Command sites will need Commanders in the room even with EBL TVs.
- **Manageability**
 - Room visits may be required for regular management if your TVs are not managed by a headend-based device like the LodgeNet VOD server or the TV Management Appliance.
- **Does the system I currently have support digital channels?**
 - Some older On Command and LodgeNet systems don't have the capability to add digital channels.
 - Many HD FTG providers, including LodgeNet, require Pro:Idiom® decryption capabilities for FTG HD and HD VOD.
- **Will the new TVs I am considering be compatible with my current LodgeNet or On Command system?**
 - Compatible TVs are listed on our TV Compatibility Web page.
 - The Web page only lists TVs tested within the last 2 years. If older TVs are in question, contact LodgeNet at 1-888-LODGENET (563-4363) to see if they are compatible.
 - Speak with LodgeNet Sales or Sales Engineering to determine what will be needed to make the TVs work with your current system.



To learn more
1-888-LODGENET (563-4363)
sales@lodgenet.com
www.lodgenet.com

Copyright © 2011 LodgeNet Interactive Corporation. All rights reserved. LodgeNet, the LodgeNet logo, and b-LAN are trademarks or registered trademarks of LodgeNet Interactive Corporation. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.