



## Equipment Compatibility

### Televisions and VCR Compatibility

Many newer television sets and videocassette recorders (VCRs) are labeled “cable ready.” Typically, a cable-ready television or VCR is one which, when connected directly to cable service, can receive all unscrambled, non-premium channels (premium channels include such channels as HBO and Showtime). Older televisions and VCRs are more likely to be non-cable ready, which means they generally receive only some numbered channels (usually channels 2-13). Even if you have an older television or VCR that was advertised as being “cable ready” or “cable compatible,” the equipment may not perform as you expected when connected directly to our cable system. This is because there previously were no standards applicable to television set manufactures governing the reception of cable channels. According to federal regulations, televisions and VCRs sold in the United States as of July 1997 cannot be called “cable ready” or “cable compatible” unless they comply with the technical requirements adopted by the FCC, including the ability to properly tune cable channels. Existing equipment may meet some but not all of these standards, and connecting our cable service directly to such equipment may cause signal degradation or interference. If you are not sure whether your television or VCR is “cable ready”, you should review the equipment manual and instructions, or contact the manufacturer. If your equipment is not fully cable ready, you can still receive all standard cable channels offering non-scrambled or non-encrypted programming by renting or purchasing a single set-top converter without descrambling or decryption capabilities. For a low monthly fee, we rent set-top converters to our customers that will be compatible with the services you purchase from us. You may also purchase retail CableCARD-enabled devices that perform this function.

### Compatibility of Set-Top Converters and CableCARDS

Because a set-top converter functions as the channel tuner on your television or VCR, it may prevent you from using some of the special features and functions of your television or VCR. For example, you may not be able to view one program while recording another, record two or more consecutive programs that appear on different channels, use picture generation and display features such as “picture in picture,” channel review or use other features that necessitate channel selection by the television set or VCR. Some of these problems may be resolved by the use of A/B switches, signal splitters, and/or other supplemental equipment.

In order to enable you to utilize special features which your television and VCR may have, we will make available for lease or purchase, upon your request, equipment which will allow for simultaneous reception of two or more scrambled or encrypted signals and for tuning to alternative channels on a pre-programmed schedule. This equipment could include for example, set-top converters and multiple descrambler/decoders and/or timers (or if such devices are not available, multiple set-top devices will be provided), and signal bypass switches.

If you plan to purchase cable services that we scramble or encrypt, such as premium, pay-per-view or digital services, you should make sure that any equipment that you purchase from a retail outlet is compatible with our system. Due to device limitations, at least most CableCARD-enabled devices can receive what is known as “one-way” cable services. Such devices cannot receive “two-way” cable services, such as our electronic program guide, video-on-demand, or switched digital video services. Customers will therefore need a digital

set-top box from us to access two-way cable services. People who use illegal converters/descramblers may be subject to prosecution for theft of cable service. It is unlawful to alter or tamper with any device belonging to a cable operator in order to receive, intercept, or assist in receiving or intercepting any communications service offered over a cable system. People who take such actions may be subject to fines or imprisonment.

### **Remote Control Units**

We rent remote control units to subscribers to access set-top converter features remotely. Currently, we provide subscribers with set-top converters with compatible remote control units. Although we rent remote control units at a nominal fee, subscribers may purchase compatible remotes at local electronic stores or other retail outlets. We encourage you to contact us in advance of purchase to attempt to confirm compatibility. Although the available remote control units are compatible with the set-top converters that we currently offer, these remotes may not be functional if we change the type of set-top converters we offer to subscribers. If you have any questions regarding whether a particular remote control unit would be compatible with our equipment, please contact us.