

FAQ SD SHUTDOWN FOR SATELLITE

on 7th January 2025

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Why is ARD discontinuing SD broadcasts?

Which channels are affected by the shutdown of SD?

This change will affect all ARD television channels, including Das Erste and the regional channels (*"Dritte Programme"*). From 7 January 2025, these channels will be broadcast exclusively in HD quality. SD broadcasting will be discontinued starting on this date.



The ARD community channels One and tagesschau24, as well as the partner channels phoenix and ARTE, which are operated jointly with ZDF, have only been available in HDTV quality since November 2022. The ARD alpha channel has also been broadcast exclusively in HD since December 2021.

What is the difference between HD and SD? What are the advantages of HD?

The abbreviations HD and SD are terms for different video resolutions: SD stands for 'Standard Definition' and HD for 'High Definition'. The two formats differ primarily in terms of the number of pixels displayed. Compared to SD, HD offers a higher resolution.

The ARD channels are displayed in SD with 720 x 576 pixels. With HD, the number of pixels is significantly higher than with SD: 1280 x 720 pixels is referred to as HD quality. Generally, the greater the number of pixels displayed on a TV, the higher the resolution. In turn, a higher resolution means a sharper image and more details in the display.



Switching to HD allows you to experience TV channels with **pin-sharp image quality and brilliant colours**. In addition, HD offers **significantly better sound quality**.

You can use the **speech-optimised audio track** → "**Clear Speech**" for all ARD HD channels.

What is "Clear Speech"?

In 2022, ARD expanded its HD channel offerings to include the **speech-optimised audio track "Clear Speech" ("Klare Sprache")**. The "Clear Speech" audio track transmits a technically processed audio signal in addition to the stereo channel audio of the current TV channel, thus improving **speech intelligibility**. The "Clear Speech" option is available for the HD channels Das Erste HD, BR, hr, mdr, NDR, Radio Bremen, rbb, SR, SWR, WDR as well as tagesschau24, KiKA, One and ARD alpha.

What makes "Clear Speech" special is that this speech-optimised audio track **reduces background and ambient noise**, enabling people with age-related or general hearing loss to enjoy an optimised listening experience while watching television. However, viewers who find e.g. background noise or added music to be too dominant can also switch to the "Clear Speech" audio track to improve the intelligibility of the speech.

You can select "Clear Speech" in the **audio menu** using the **TV's remote control**. In addition to the existing options of 'Original Audio', 'Audio Description', and 'Multi-Channel Audio', you will usually have the option of selecting the "Clear Speech" audio track.

PLEASE NOTE:

How "Clear Speech" is displayed in the settings of your TV set is not standardised and differs depending on the device and manufacturer. You do not require any new or special devices to select this audio track.



FAQ SD SHUTDOWN FOR SATELLITE

How can I tell if I am already receiving my TV channels in HD?



You can check whether you are receiving the ARD channels in HD quality by looking for the **additional HD symbol** in the **channel logo** while the channel is running. Please note that not all HD channels have the HD symbol in the corner logo. The HD symbol is not visible in the corner logo for the HD channels of hr, MDR, NDR and Radio Bremen.

Alternatively, you can take a look at the **channel list** and the **electronic channel guide (EPG)** – here, the HD channels are generally marked with the addition ‘HD’, making them easy to identify.



The remote control offers another option: Pressing the **info button on the remote control** opens a window that also provides information about the transmission quality. Here too, the current channel is listed with the HD symbol.



PLEASE NOTE:

The name of the info button may vary depending on the manufacturer.

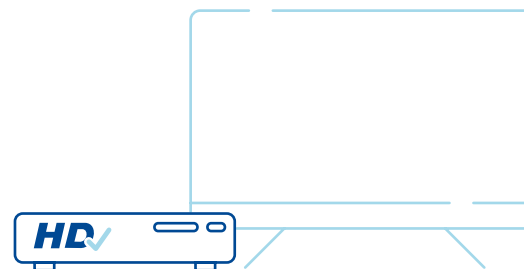
What do I need to receive channels in HD?

To receive ARD channels in high-resolution HD image quality, you need a suitable **TV or receiver**. Specifically, this means that you need either an HD-compatible television or a receiver. Most televisions purchased after 2015 already have an **integrated DVB-S2 tuner**, so that no additional receiver with extra remote controls is needed to receive HD channels.



HD-COMPATIBLE TELEVISION

OR



SUITABLE HD RECEIVER

If you have an older television (HD ready or CRT), it is relatively inexpensive to switch to the HD channels of ARD. Because older televisions usually do not have a DVB-S2 tuner, a suitable satellite receiver is required to receive HD channels. Such a device allows you to 'upgrade' your television – HD-compatible satellite receivers are available from around €30. It is not necessary to purchase a new television set.

How can I tell whether my TV or receiver is HD-compatible?

There are various ways to determine whether your television or receiver is HD-compatible:



HD-LOGO

Check whether there is an HD logo on the TV or receiver. You will often find the corresponding logo on the housing of the television or receiver.



OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The operating instructions for your TV or receiver will usually provide information on its resolution. HD devices support a resolution of at least 1280 x 720 pixels.



DEVICE MENU

Open the menu on your TV or receiver and select 'Settings'. Here, you will find information on the image resolution and other technical specifications.



MANUFACTURER WEBSITE

Visit the manufacturer website of your TV or receiver and search for your device model (model name or serial number). The technical specifications are usually indicated on the product page.



SEARCH ENGINES

Enter the model name of your TV or receiver into a search engine to find information about its HD capabilities.

What should I look for when buying a TV?

If you want to buy a TV, you should look for these features to receive HD channels:



RESOLUTION

The TV should support at least Full HD (1920 x 1080 pixels).

RECEPTION

Ensure that the TV has an integrated DVB-S2 tuner for satellite reception or DVB-C for cable reception.

CONNECTIONS

HDMI connections are important for connecting external devices such as receivers.

NETWORK CAPABILITY

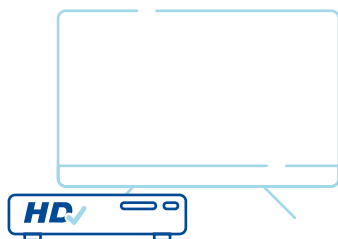
If you want to access streaming services, apps and media libraries, choose a TV with an internet connection or integrated Wi-Fi.

PLEASE NOTE:

If you want to receive the channels of private broadcasters in HD or pay TV, you will need a corresponding interface or a CI+ slot on the TV or receiver that is compatible with an HD+ card. The HD+ card must be inserted into the CI+ slot on the TV or receiver.

What should I look for when buying a receiver?

If you decide to buy a receiver, it is a cost-effective alternative to buying a new television. You should look out for the following features:



RECEPTION

It is important that the receiver supports the correct reception type and that the required tuner is integrated. You can recognise this by the following designations:

- > DVB-S for reception via satellite
- > DVB-C for cable reception

CONNECTIONS

The standard connection for modern televisions is the HDMI connector. Therefore, ensure that the receiver has an HDMI connection so that the devices can be connected via an HDMI cable.

If your television does not have an HDMI connection, you should look out for a SCART connection when buying the receiver – this will also allow you to connect the television to a receiver. However, the image quality is reduced to standard definition (SD) when transmitted via a SCART cable. This means that you will be able to watch the content of the ARD HD channels, but not in full HD quality.

In any case, the following applies: The connections of your TV and receiver must match.

NETWORK CAPABILITY

A receiver with an internet connection or integrated Wi-Fi enables access to streaming services, apps and media libraries. This is useful if your TV itself does not have smart TV functionality.

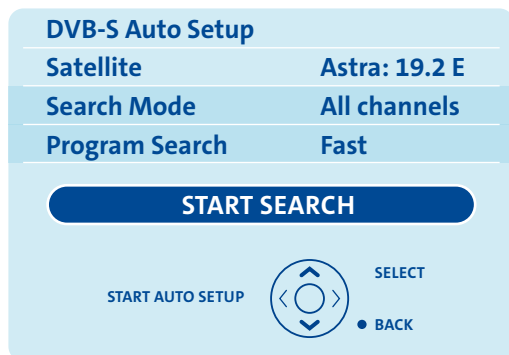
When is a channel search necessary?

If you find that you can already receive HD channels, but certain channels are still shown in SD quality, it is recommended that you run a **channel search**.

Running a channel search allows you to find and organise all available channels, including those in HD quality. You can start the automatic and manual channel searches via the menu on your TV or receiver. Once the search is complete, you can move the HD channels found to the desired position or add them to your favourites list.

If you **do not find any HD channels** during the channel search or discover that you cannot receive any HD channels, you may **need a new device**. To receive channels in HD, you require either an HD-compatible TV set (that supports the DVB-S2 standard for satellite reception or DVB-C for cable reception) or an appropriate HD-compatible satellite receiver.

When is an automatic channel search useful?



An automatic channel search is used to automatically **find and save all available channels** in your region. It is always useful to carry out an automatic channel search when you connect a new TV or want to set up your receiver from scratch.

During an automatic channel search, the TV or receiver scans all the channels stored in the transponder list. This also allows HD channels to be found.

You will usually find this function in the 'Settings' menu of your device. From there, select the 'Automatic channel search' option. The terms used may vary depending on the device and manufacturer. The device will now automatically scan all available frequencies and transponders. Once the scan is complete, the **channels found will be displayed in a list** that you can then sort according to your preferences.

PLEASE NOTE:

The existing channel list may be overwritten during the automatic channel scan. If so, you may have to re-organise your existing list of channels.

When is a manual channel search useful?



The screenshot shows a TV receiver's menu for manual channel search. The menu items are listed on the left, and their current settings are on the right. A 'SEARCH' button is at the bottom.

Tuner mode	< Satellite >
Operator	< Other >
Select satellite	< Astra: 19.2 E >
Position	< A >
LNB-performance	< On >
LNB-frequency	< Universal >
DisEqC-input	< Satellite >
Unicable	< Off >
Sound	< Auto >
Tone Burst	< Disable >
Frequency	11.494 Ghz
Symbol rates	22,0 MSym/s
Polarisation	< Horizontal >
Signal strength	100%
Signal quality	100%

SEARCH

A manual channel search offers you an alternative way of finding and sorting channels on your TV or receiver without overwriting the existing channel list. Unlike the automatic search, the manual search allows you to **search selectively for certain frequencies or transponders**. This is always useful if you are looking for specific channels or want to configure specific settings.

When performing a manual search, you will need to enter **specific parameters** such as the transponder frequency (MHz or GHz), the error correction, the symbol rate (kBd or MSymb/s), the polarisation or even just the individual channel name, depending on the device.

The function for the manual channel search can also be found in the 'Settings' menu of your device. From there, select the 'Manual channel search' option.

NOTE:

The transponder frequency can be specified in **MHz** or **GHz**.

To convert the frequency, you can make use of the following rule:

MHz to GHz: Divide the frequency by 1000.

GHz to MHz: Multiply the frequency by 1000.

Parameters for the manual channel search

YOU CAN CONFIGURE THE HD CHANNELS USING THE FOLLOWING PARAMETERS:

Das Erste HD, arte HD, SWR BW HD, SWR RP HD

Downlink frequency:	11,494 GHz
Transponder:	19
Polarisation:	horizontal
Symbol rate (MSym/s):	22,0
Error correction (FEC):	2/3
Modulation:	DVB-S2 8-PSK

BR Süd HD, BR Nord HD, NDR FS NDS HD, NDR FS MV HD, NDR FS HH HD, NDR FS SH HD, PHOENIX HD

Downlink frequency:	11,582 GHz
Transponder:	25
Polarisation:	horizontal
Symbol rate (MSym/s):	22,0
Error correction (FEC):	2/3
Modulation:	DVB-S2 8-PSK

SR HD, Radio Bremen TV HD, ARD alpha HD, tagesschau24 HD, One HD

Downlink frequency:	11,053 GHz
Transponder:	39
Polarisation:	horizontal
Symbol rate (MSym/s):	22,0
Error correction (FEC):	2/3
Modulation:	DVB-S2 8-PSK

MDR Sachsen HD, MDR S-Anhalt HD, MDR Thüringen HD, hr-Fernsehen HD, rbb Berlin HD, rbb Brandenburg HD

Downlink frequency:	10,891 GHz
Transponder:	61
Polarisation:	horizontal
Symbol rate (MSym/s):	22,0
Error correction (FEC):	2/3
Modulation:	DVB-S 2 8-PSK

WDR HD Köln, WDR HD Bielefeld, WDR HD Dortmund, WDR HD Düsseldorf, WDR HD Essen, WDR HD Münster, WDR HD Siegen, WDR HD Aachen, WDR HD Wuppertal, WDR HD Bonn, WDR HD Duisburg

Downlink frequency:	11,523 GHz
Transponder:	21
Polarisation:	horizontal
Symbol rate (MSym/s):	22,0
Error correction (FEC):	2/3
Modulation:	DVB-S2 8PSK

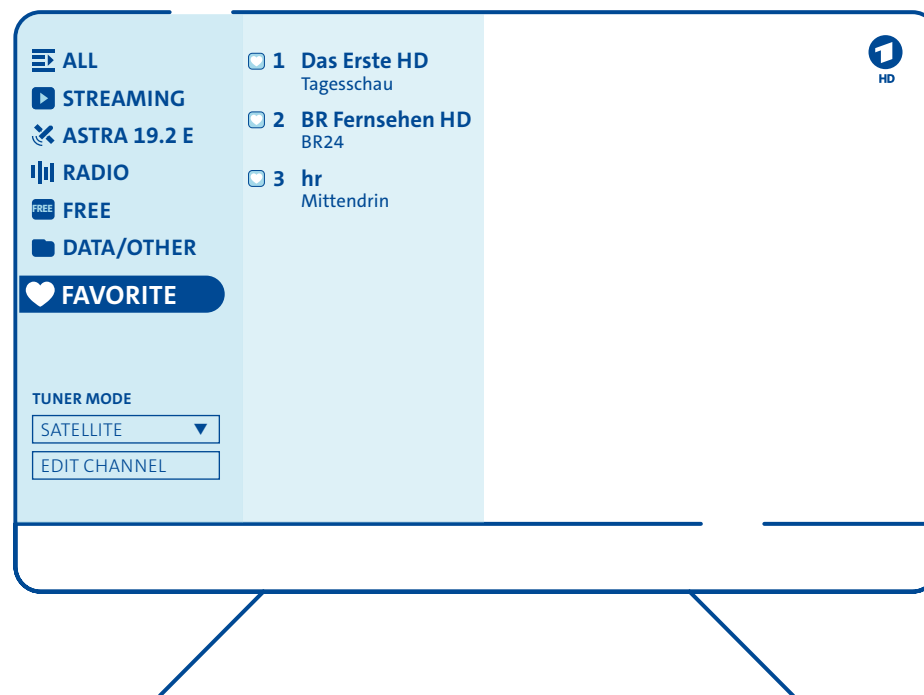
How can I sort channels in the channel list or add them to the favourites list?

If you want to sort channels in your channel list or add them to the favourites list, you can usually do this via the 'Settings' or 'Channel management' menu item on your TV or receiver.

Select the option that allows you to edit your channel list or add favourites. This allows you to create a **personal channel list**.

PLEASE NOTE:

The configuration process varies depending on the device and manufacturer. Refer to the operating instructions for your TV or receiver for the steps, or contact the manufacturer's customer support.



I do not own an HD-compatible TV or receiver yet. What do I have to do to receive HD content?

There are → **two options available for switching from standard definition (SD) to high definition (HD)**: You can either purchase an HD satellite receiver or an HD-compatible TV with an integrated DVB-S2 tuner. Additional receivers are mainly used to upgrade older TVs, as many older models do not have an integrated HD tuner.

If you want to connect an HD satellite receiver to your TV, you should make sure that the connections on both devices are compatible – only when this is the case can you receive channels in HD. Modern **satellite receivers** or **televisions** usually have **HDMI connections**, as these offer the best image and sound quality. In order for the receiver to be connected to the television, meaning via the corresponding HDMI cable, the satellite receiver should also have an HDMI connection.

If your television set is an older model and does not have an HDMI input, you can also connect the television and satellite receiver using a **SCART connection**. SCART cables do not support HD transmission. The HD signal will be compressed by the receiver to a lower resolution. You will be able to see the content of the ARD HD channels, but not in full HD image quality. In any case, the following applies: When buying a new TV or receiver, make sure that the connections on your devices match.

After purchasing, select the HD channels in the settings of your new TV or receiver. During the initial setup, you may need to perform an

- **Automatic channel search** or a
- **Manual channel search**.



HDMI cable



SCART cable

What costs will I incur if I currently do not own an HD-compatible TV or receiver?

Switching from SD reception to HDTV (High Definition Television) is relatively inexpensive for viewers. To receive channels in HD, you either need an HD-compatible TV set (HD-compatible and supports the DVB-S2 standard) or a suitable satellite receiver (HD receiver for satellite reception or HD receiver for cable reception).



HD-compatible satellite receivers are available in specialist shops for under €30.

It is not necessary to purchase a new television set.

Will I also be affected by this change if I receive cable TV?

The end of SD transmission primarily affects viewers who receive their TV channels via satellite. **As a cable customer, you are not directly affected**, but the shutdown could also mean a change for you. Cable network operators decide for themselves whether to continue or discontinue SD transmission. Some cable network operators have already announced that they will also stop the SD transmission of ARD channels on 7 January 2025.

Unfortunately, ARD is unable to provide any information on this and all cable customers should therefore contact the **relevant cable network operator** directly with any questions.

Will the end of SD transmission have an impact on recording programmes?

The switch from SD to HD should not affect programmes that have already been recorded, as these are usually stored in the memory of your device and can be played back **regardless of the transmission quality**.

However, if you have programmed the device to record future programmes that are broadcast by an SD channel, these could be lost after the switch to HD. When switching to HD, it may be necessary to **perform a channel search**. In most cases, this will delete the programmed recordings.

Why is ARD discontinuing SD broadcasts via satellite?

ARD has decided to standardise channel distribution and will end **dual broadcasting in SD and HD resolution on 7 January 2025**. From this date, the simulcast operation of Das Erste and all regional channels of the state public service broadcasting corporations will be discontinued. Viewers will then only be able to receive ARD channels in HD quality, which offers a significantly better image quality than SD.



Currently, well over 90% of households (and the figure is rising) that receive television channels via satellite have an HD-compatible device.



Since the switchover to HD in 2012, ARD has been broadcasting its channels in two formats – in standard quality (720 x 576 pixels) and in significantly higher HD quality (1280 x 720 pixels). For ARD, simulcast operation means **significantly higher costs** in terms of transponder rental, channel provision and broadcasting, as well as channel monitoring and maintenance.



From an ecological point of view, too, ending SD broadcasting makes sense. The double broadcasting of channels results in high energy consumption, and switching off SD will therefore **help to reduce CO₂ emissions**. In addition, new TVs and receivers are generally more energy-efficient than older models.

The Commission for the determination of the financial needs of public service broadcasters in Germany (KEF) also decided in 2016 that no more funds would be provided from the licence fee for dual channel distribution. The termination of SD broadcasting thus also contributes to a **responsible use of the TV and radio licence fee**.