



## What is a V-Chip?

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The V-chip enables parents to block television programming they don't want their children to watch. Many television shows now include a rating that helps parents determine the suitability of the program for their family. Using the remote control, parents can program the V-chip to block certain shows based on the rating. The V-chip technology reads the rating and blocks shows accordingly.

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### The Ratings

**TV-Y (*All Children*)** is found only in children's shows. It means that the show is appropriate for all children.

**TV-7 (*Directed to Older Children*)** is found only in children's shows. It means that the show is most appropriate for children ages 7 and up.

**TV-G (*General Audience*)** means that the show is suitable for all ages but is not necessarily a children's show.

**TV-PG (*Parental Guidance Suggested*)** means that parental guidance is suggested and that the show may be unsuitable for younger children (this rating may also include a V for violence, S for sexual situations, L for language, or D for suggestive dialog).

**TV-14 (*Parents Strongly Cautioned*)** means that the show may be unsuitable for children under 14 (V, S, L, or D may accompany a rating of TV-14).

**TV-MA (*Mature Audience Only*)** means that the show is for mature audiences only and may be unsuitable for children under 17 (V, S, L, or D may accompany a rating of TV-MA).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Is it hard to use the V-chip?*

No. It's actually quite easy. Follow the directions using the TV's on-screen menu. Each brand and model may have somewhat different procedures, but none is difficult. There are also written instructions in the owner's manual.

### *Can kids de-activate the V-chip?*

Not unless you give them the password. You activate the V-chip by using a password or code. Any change requires the user to know the code.

### *Do I need cable or satellite for parental controls?*

No. Although cable and satellite set-top boxes have their own parental controls, each TV has its own so you can block programs or channels even if you get your TV programming over-the-air.

### *I know TV programs are rated, but what about movies?*

You can set the V-chip to block uncut and unedited movies that run on premium channels using the Motion Picture Association of America rating system.

### *Do programs carry the same rating every week?*

Not necessarily. Programs are rated by episode and may vary week to week.

### *Are commercials rated?*

No, commercials are not rated. Neither are news programs or sports.

### *Where on the TV is the rating?*

The rating icon is displayed in the upper left-hand corner at the start of the program and succeeding hours if the program is longer than one hour.

### *Who monitors the ratings?*

The TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board makes sure that the rating guidelines are applied accurately and consistently to television programming. The Monitoring Board has a Chairman and six members each from the broadcast television industry, the cable industry, and the program production community.



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