

# PARENTAL LOCK

**The Parental Lock is an important tool for parents and guardians who wish to control their children's television viewing options. This fact sheet provides more information about the feature and how to use it.**

## About the Parental Lock

The Parental Lock is a feature available on most digital televisions and devices. The feature allows you to block access to programs based on their particular classification and in some cases block access to entire channels.

Most digital televisions, digital set-top-boxes and personal video recorders have a Parental Lock function, however you should check your device's product manual or user guide, or contact the manufacturer, to determine if your particular model includes this feature.

From 4 February 2011, all new models of digital television receivers sold in Australia are required by law to include a Parental Lock function.

## How to use the feature

In most cases, you will need to begin by clicking on the MENU or SET-UP button on your remote control and then accessing your set-up options. The feature will be listed as Lock or Parental Lock or Parental Control on most devices.

Most Parental Lock functions prompt you to enter a PIN (personal identification number).

When accessing the Parental Lock feature for the first time, the PIN will be a default PIN set by the manufacturer.

In most instances your default PIN will be 0000 or 1234. Once the default PIN is entered, you can then nominate your own PIN.

If you do change your PIN, you must remember to write the number down and store it in a safe place. If you lose or forget your PIN, you should contact your manufacturer or consult your manual. You may be required to reset your device to the default factory settings.



Most Parental Locks allow you to block content based on the classification level. For example, by selecting PG, any program content rated PG or higher (ie. M or MA) will require the use of a PIN to view/access this content.

Once the function is activated, only those who know the PIN can access programming with that particular classification.

Some devices also allow you to block an entire channel.

Once you have enabled the Parental Lock, you may need to change channels or switch your television off and back on again for the Lock to take effect.

Your lock options can be changed or turned off at any time by accessing the Parental Lock feature using your remote control and entering your PIN.

On some digital video recording devices or personal video recorders, the Parental Lock function will not apply to recorded content.

## Program classifications

Program classifications are designed to help inform you and your family's viewing choices.

A brief description of G, PG, M, MA classifications can be found by clicking [here](#).

Program classification symbols and warnings are usually displayed at the beginning of a program. This information can also be found on most digital devices via the electronic program guide (EPG) and in television guides within newspapers, magazines and online.

Some sporting programs, as well as news and current affair programs are not subject to program classification.

The Commercial Television Industry Code of Practice provides detailed information and descriptions about program classifications and classifications of films for broadcast on TV. To obtain a copy of the Code, contact Free TV or visit the Free TV website.

## Need more information?

Parental Locks vary between devices, so you should consult your product manual or user guide for instructions on how to use this functionality on your particular device. You should contact the manufacturer if you have any further questions.

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