

## Investing in Home Entertainment – Trends in 2009

When times are tight financially, one of the first areas people save money is to cut back on going out for movies, concerts and much outdoor entertainment. However, we in the United States remain large consumers of any and all entertainment, so what many experts are predicting is that in 2009, we will focus more on upgrading our home entertainment systems than in the past.

What sort of improvements will be popular? One expert said it will include furniture surrounding your TV and stereo systems. “Think oversize chairs and sofas, modular sofas that are re-configurable, tables that keep food hot (or cold), and entertainment centers that provide storage.”

(<http://www.furniturestyle.com/Magazine/ArticleLanding/tabid/86/Default.aspx?tid=1&contentid=13861&issueid=481>)

Another item that should be popular are Blu-Ray high-definition movie players. Because these items have not taken off as anticipated due to the weak economy, major stores such as Target have slashed prices to under \$200 after spending much of 2008 priced above \$400.

([http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122514674049473763.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122514674049473763.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)) Many experts have said these players offer the best picture quality currently available, although the price of Blu-Ray discs currently are double that of most DVDs, so you may want to wait before investing in a player immediately.

Along the same lines, old TV sets will need to be prepared for the transition to digital TV, if you have not made the transition already. If you receive TV reception from an antenna and your TV is not digital (which probably is the case unless you bought a model made from March 2007 onward), you will need to buy a converter box to keep watching your favorite shows live after this date, or replace it with a new set. Converter boxes are running \$50 or less at most outlets, while naturally new TV sets run into the hundreds to thousands of dollars depending on extras, but this might be an excellent time to consider one as a replacement, especially since the costs of TVs have been resistant to much inflation. You can get more information on what is involved in this transition, including a link to receive a \$40 coupon to purchase a converter (that’s right – in some cases, that will mean your purchase will be free), here. (<http://www.dtv.gov/>)

And do not forget that there are plenty of other new and affordable DVDs, PlayStation games and other entertainment software coming out every day, offering you a limitless choice of materials to add to your collection. Indeed, the problem you may have in 2009 is not how much you can spend on your home entertainment system, but how much you will spend without going overboard. Other than that, plan to have fun in buying entertainment for your home.