



MAIN LIBRARY

461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470
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Monday — Thursday: 9:00 a.m. — 9:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
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PREAKNESS BRANCH

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Holds can be placed by Wayne residents through the PALSplus catalog once the item has been added. (You will need your library card number and PIN #). The Reference dept. will be happy to demonstrate how to do this and answer any questions you may have).

www.waynepubliclibrary.org/catalogs.html



**Blu-ray,
HD-DVD &
High Definition**

Wayne Public Library

**What are the
differences?
Why do we need it?**





What is Blu-ray?

Blu-ray, also known as Blu-ray Disc (BD) is the name of a next-generation optical disc format. The format was developed to enable recording, rewriting and playback of high-definition video (HD), as well as storing large amounts of data. The format offers more than five times the storage capacity of traditional DVDs and can hold up to 25GB on a single-layer disc and 50GB on a dual-layer disc.

The name Blu-ray is derived from the underlying technology, which utilizes a blue-violet laser to read and write data.

What is HD-DVD?

HD DVD (not to be confused with the general concept of high definition DVD formats, although the confusion is probably intentional) is one of the two major formats competing for the emerging high definition DVD market. The name "HD DVD" is obviously an extension of the existing DVD naming scheme, and while it's the usual marketing ploy, it does make a little sense in that HD DVD is a lot closer to the current DVD format than Blu-ray discs.

What is high definition DVD?

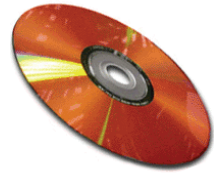
High definition DVD will be more like an evolution of the DVD format, than an outright revolution. In terms of video and audio quality, high definition DVD will be what DVD was to VHS videotapes. Many television sets today are capable of displaying high definition pictures, and the move to a high definition home video format is the logical step in the evolution of home video.

To be more precise, high definition DVD will aim to offer 1080 lines of video resolution video (more on these technical details later), compared to the 576/480 lines offered by DVDs today.



What about my existing DVDs?

Regardless of which high definition format you choose, they will most likely be compatible with existing DVDs meaning your DVD collection does not have to be replaced.



Why do we need different formats?

Well, the short answer is we don't. In an ideal world, there would only be one single format that all the electronics firms and movie studios would support. In fact, this "ideal world" existed during the creation of the DVD format, and is perhaps one of the main reasons why DVD became the record breaking success that it was.

With multiple formats, this means that movie studios will have to choose a side when it comes to releasing movies in high definition format. What this means for consumers is that unless your high definition DVD player supports all the high definition formats, you will either be limited in the movies you can buy or you might need to purchase more than one player.

While "we" don't need multiple formats, the people behind the various formats do because there is a huge amount of money involved in licensing fees.

Why do I even want any of this?

For the same reasons why you would want DVDs over video tapes. Apart from the high resolution video and audio, the increased capacity of high definition discs will hopefully mean an end to single movie multi-disc sets, and allow for more extra features to fit onto one disc. It may, for example, be possible to fit an entire season of a television show onto one disc.

Additionally, HDTV plays a factor. If you've ever seen high-definition (HD) video on an HDTV, then you know just how incredibly sharp the picture is and how vivid the colors are. In fact, HD offers five times the amount of detail compared to standard-definition (SD).

Differences between Blu-ray and HD-DVD

The major difference is capacity. Blu-ray holds 25GB per layer (50GB on a dual-layer disc), whereas HD-DVD holds 15GB per layer (30GB on a dual-layer disc).

Information gathered from the following websites:

<http://www.digital-digest.com/highdefdvd/faq.html#faq401>

http://www.cd-writer.com/blu_ray_faq.html

<http://www.blu-ray.com/faq/>