

Consumer Electronics Retailers Coalition



Question regarding analog VCRs....

I've tried finding information related to how it will be possible for me to continue using my analog TV and analog VCR after the transition to digital broadcasting. I've found lots of information related to continued TV reception with a converter box, but I don't know if or how my VCR will be able to record the new signals, since our VCR also has only an analog receiver.

- Will it be possible to connect the output of the digital receiver to the "antenna in" slot of the VCR, then connect the VCR "antenna out" to the TV "antenna in" as is presently done?

Yes. The "antenna in" is referred to below as the "RF" or "channel 3/4" input.

- If so, will there be any way to program the VCR to record shows on channels other than the standard current analog channels (not the sub-channels)? For instance, could I program the VCR to record a show on channel 15, but not 15.1 or 15.2?

No, but the Converter box will be able to feed any of those channels to the VCR for recording, and it will have an Electronic Program Guide to assist in locating and tuning any and all channels available in one's reception area. (However, to watch one channel while recording another you will need 2 Converter Boxes and it is unlikely that any models will be controllable by a programmed VCR. So one converter would have to feed, e.g., channel 15.1 to the TV, and another feed channel 15.2 to the VCR.)

- Would the digital converter being routed to the VCR "antenna in" override the built-in analog antenna of the VCR during recording?

There is no built-in "analog antenna," you will simply set the VCR input to receive the corresponding output from the Converter. The signal from the Converter will be available from the "composite video" and "RF" outputs, which would be fixed on either channel 3 or channel 4 (switchable on the Converter). So your VCR would stay "tuned" either to the "video in" input, or to channel 3 or 4 (depending on which you select as an output for the Converter). While your VCR does not have any built in "antenna" it does PROBABLY have a built in analog TV tuner that would have to stay tuned to either channel 3 or channel 4. This is why trying to program the VCR to tune different channels will not work. (If it does not have an analog tuner it would still have a "video in" that can be hooked to the "[composite] video out" of the Converter.)

- Will only coupon-eligible converter boxes be listed on http://www.ntiadt.gov/cecb_list.cfm? Only three models are presently listed.

Yes, only CECBs will be listed, but NITA has advised us that the certification of additional makes and models will be announced soon.