

Security Camera Knowledge

Introduction

Just the site of a security camera is a powerful tool against would be intruders. A security camera can help authorities identify thieves and retrieve stolen items.

Security Cameras

Security cameras are a useful addition to your alarm system and also provide other uses such as:

- Send alerts to your mobile device
- Who's at the front /back door
- Checking up on kids
- Keeping an eye on your pets
- The ability in providing footage to authorities if needed

Types of Security Cameras

There are a variety of cameras to choose from depending on your needs. When researching the various types, please keep in mind that many have compound features as seen below:

- **Basic/Fixed-** does not move, change direction or zoom.



- **Pan/Tilt or Pan/Tilt -Zoom-**these can be adjusted quickly, change direction or zoom and can even lock in on and follow a moving object. They can also spin and angle up or down due to a motorized interior mount. This can also be accessed from your smartphone or other web-enabled device.



- **Wireless Camera-**these connect to your security system through an internet connection and are easy to set up. A great benefit of wireless security cameras is that they do not have to be wired into the home to communicate with the alarm system.



Night Vision- uses infrared technology to illuminate poorly lit areas



- **Exterior or outdoor camera-**they often have night vision elements and are waterproof
- **Motion Detection Camera-**They can start recording or start taking pictures when movement is sensed so no useless footage is captured.



- **Hidden/Covert Camera-**also known as Nanny-cams can be concealed in secret places (bookshelf, centerpiece...etc.)



- **Dome Camera-** often used indoors and can be designed to be tamper-proof. Commonly pan-tilt-zoom capable and because they are tinted, most people are unable to tell if the camera is currently facing them or not.



- **IP Camera. Netcam. or Webcam-Internet Protocol camera-**a digital video camera that can send and receive data via computer network or broadband connection.



With so many options to choose from, think about why you're looking for a security camera and what purpose it would fulfill. The size of your home, the presence of pets and children, and even your home's location are all factors that determine the type of system that will best suit your needs.

Here are a few tips for placement of security cameras

If your installing security camera's yourself, it's easiest to buy wireless since there are no wires or cables to worry about and it's also a snap. You can also remotely view footage via your smartphone or other mobile device.

Here is a short list of some common places:

- **Back and Front door**-because not all intruders will make it obvious by using the front door
- **Areas of High Foot traffic**- Inside your home an intruder will have to walk through high traffic areas to access other parts of the home. (hallways, entryways and living areas)
- **Point your Camera in the Right direction**- Place your camera at the most effective angle. Cameras with motion sensors will better detect motion when an intruder walks past it instead of towards it.
- **Bedrooms**- Burglars often ransack master bedrooms first, so it's good to place one in there as well as the kids room or baby room.
- Be sure there is enough light when considering placement, dark areas will be grainy or difficult to see.

Maintenance

They typically do not need a lot of attention, but you do not want to forget them either.

Be sure to:

- Keep them clean by wiping down the lens and make sure they are not covered with dust or debris.
- Outdoor cameras, be aware of trees, bushes or items that might obstruct the vision.
- Beware of Elements when placing them outdoors, make sure they are waterproof.
- Check batteries regularly

Follow these simple steps to take of your cameras so they will last a long time and provide you peace of mind.

***Fake Security Camera's**

A cheap alternative to actual cameras, a fake one may help with the deterrence of intruders. In choosing a fake camera, spring for a good-looking model and ask yourself if you would be tricked by it. Savvy thieves may be able to tell the difference in fake and real security equipment so place them in a location that a real one would be.

(In our next Blog, we will discuss how Smart Apps can help you Enjoy your Summer Vacations)