

## Home Camera Options

There are many things to consider when you are looking at adding a surveillance system to your home. Cost, quality, and how exactly you want to use it are some of the most important factors.

The first question you should ask yourself is if you want a DVR or NVR system. Sounds complicated, but it's not! A DVR system is connected by coaxial cable and the signal runs from the camera to the recording device to be processed. Because the information is not yet processed, it breaks down as it travels. This results in a lower quality image. An NVR system receives a digital signal that is processed within the camera and then the processed information is transmitted to the recording device. This results in a higher quality image. Both systems could have 4K cameras but the DVR system will still produce a lower quality image than the NVR system simply because of the way it was processed.

### Security Systems with No Ongoing Cost

If you are looking for a basic inexpensive system with no monthly fees, yet still want to be able to playback your recordings, the DVR option is good for you. Keep in mind that this is what stores and businesses use for their CCTV systems. Images may not be crystal clear or maybe even in color, but here is still enough quality to see individuals and what they are doing.

There are many too many affordable options available for this type of system to be able to list. You'll have to do some homework when considering your home and what will work best. There are different features available to consider and most brands offer very similar features. For example, some cameras are capable of recording sound, some are not. (Keep in mind, sound cannot be used in court cases if you catch a criminal act.) How many cameras do you want to be able to add to the recording device? (The amount of channels the recorder has determines how many cameras you can add.) Do you want to be able to use different brands of cameras? (Look for a recording device that will be compatible with other brands.) You can find all these specifications in the description of each system.

For the sake of simplicity, let's say you want something that will come with everything you need to cover your front and back doors. Let's look at this Sannce Camera system. It comes with 2 cameras, a 4 channel recording device, cable, and a monitor.

Sannce

## **1080p 4 Channel DVR W/ 2 2MP Outdoor Bullet Security Camera System, 10.1" LCD Colorful Monitor** SKU: DT41FE-C51ER\*2



This particular model comes with two weatherproof cameras, a 4 channel DVR (with 4 channels, you have the option to add 2 more cameras), monitor, and the materials needed to connect the cameras to the DVR (within 60 feet, if further than 60 you would need more coaxial cable). Everything you need for a simple system is here. All you need to decide when purchasing this model is how much storage you want it to have. With no extra storage, it simply loops the video and records over what is already there within a matter of hours. With additional storage, you could go back several days, up to months even, to view old video. You do also have the option to connect it to a router so that you can control it via an app on your phone, but that IS NOT required for it to function. Cost for this unit with 1 TB (several weeks) of added storage is \$169.99

This is a simple system with the ability to add 2 more cameras. You will need electrical near both cameras so that you can plug them in. This system has the added benefit of a monitor. Typically, most systems do not come with one but you can add your own if you want to be able to see the picture as it records.

Let's look at another DVR option:

OOSXX available on Amazon:

## **{Dual Antennas for Wi-Fi Enhanced} AI Human Detected 2K 3.0MP Wireless Security Camera System, Surveillance NVR Kits with 2TB Hard Drive, 4Pcs Outdoor WiFi Security Cameras, with Audio, Night Vision**



This model comes with 4 weatherproof cameras. The biggest difference between these and the SANNCE is that these ones are wireless. They communicate with the recorder using Wifi instead of coaxial cable. This is easier than having to run cable but wouldn't be your best option if you have unreliable or slow internet connection, although it does have a dual antenna system which would boost your wifi to improve it at the camera on the event that it slows down. If your internet connection is

good, then saving yourself the trouble of running cable would make this option appealing. These cameras also have human detection sensors (which can be turned on or off). If you have this connected to your phone, it will automatically alert you when there is someone within the camera's range. The recorder with this model has a 2TB hard drive meaning that it will hold twice the amount of video as the SANNCE. This option also has the capability to connect to your phone, but it is not necessary for it to function. It does, however, require Wifi. This package does not include a monitor, so if you want to view what you record, but not use your phone, you would need to add a monitor.

Both these packages are capable of connecting to a phone the way the more popular systems like the Ring do, however, to have access to the controls offered you would be required to pay a small fee.

### Premium Recording Subscriptions

If paying a subscription fee for premium access to what your camera records is something that you would not mind, you may want to go with the NVR option. With this option, your camera is processing all the information it collects and then it loads it onto your service provider's server. You are replacing the need for the recording device and "renting" that informational storage space from them. The cost of this service depends on what you want to be able to do with the videos that they have stored from your camera. Some of these services are free, but you are limited to just watching your video in real time. In order to playback or save any video, you would need to pay for that option. Let's take a look at the popular NVR systems.

## RING

Amazon-owned Ring initially gained popularity for its doorbell cameras, but it also sells indoor cameras, outdoor cameras, an over-the-peephole camera, and other home security equipment. We valued having the option to choose between so many cameras, including wireless and hardwired models, all at competitive prices.



Other Ring camera models include motion detection, two-way voice, and Amazon Alexa and Echo integration like the doorbell cameras. Smart integrations let us control our home alarm system with voice commands and send our security video to various in-home displays of our choice. Ring cloud video storage costs \$3 per month for one

camera or \$10 per month for an unlimited number of cameras installed in one address.

#### What We Like

- Wide-selection of indoor/outdoor cameras
- Easy DIY installation takes only minutes
- Crisp and clear HD video image quality
- Integrates with third-party smart platforms

#### What We Don't Like

- Some Ring cams are too large
- High-end Ring cameras are expensive
- Ring Pro cam requires hardwiring
- Can be prone to trigger false alarms



Ring spotlight camera

Ring has an expansive product catalog, but let's take a look at one example: For most climates, the Ring Spotlight Cam is one of the best weatherproof cameras for scaring off prowlers as it can withstand temperatures five degrees below zero. This \$200 camera comes equipped with bright spotlights that you can program to turn on when it detects motion. It also has a 110-decibel siren, plenty loud even for an outdoor camera.

## BLINK

### Why Blink Is Easiest to Use

Blink sells easy-to-use wireless cameras for indoor and outdoor use. These are low-priced at \$35 and up, yet excellent quality. Special features on [Blink cameras](#) include one-way or two-way audio, a motion sensor, customizable motion zones, a temperature sensor, and the option to use Amazon Alexa for arming and disarming by voice.

#### What We Like

- No-contract, self-monitoring option
- User-friendly DIY installation
- Low-maintenance, long battery life

- Integrates with Alexa and IFTTT

#### What We Don't Like

- Does not offer innovative features
- Multiple devices become expensive
- Limited video storage options
- Only one person can stream at a time



One of the great things about the Blink Indoor and Outdoor is the PIR motion sensor. Instead of relying on computer vision, which can drain batteries quickly, not to mention trigger lots of false alerts, both cameras use Infrared motion detection. This means the cameras are only triggered by movement of heat signatures. Even if an inanimate object, let's say a curtain, moves, it won't register as movement to the cameras. When a person moves, however, the camera will alert you if armed.

Blink provides affordable cloud storage with pricing similar to that of Ring (\$3 per month for one camera and \$10 for all cameras). You can also access local recording without monthly fees with a Sync Module 2 hub and a USB flash drive.

#### Other Options:

If cost is not an issue and you are looking for whole home options you can contact companies such as Iowa Fire Control, ADT, or Per Mar to come into your home and tailor a system to your needs. Most insurance companies will offer a discount on rates for homes with systems such as these.