

## **EASY GUIDE TO CHOOSING YOUR SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM**

### **1) Do-It-Yourself (DIY) or Professional (PRO)**

Our DIY systems are designed for the consumer who wants a quick and easy-to-install security solution. These systems still feature advanced functions such as night vision and motion detection, but are simple to set up and understand. The majority of DIY cameras use a CMOS image sensor: this allows for a smaller camera build and uses less power than a more advanced CCD sensor.

For the advanced user, a PRO system may be more appropriate. These systems are more refined and offer a higher level of security. They often feature dozens of infrared LEDs for maximum night vision range. Professional cameras are larger and use heavy duty metal casing, which make them ideal for businesses where crime prevention is a must. These cameras use a CCD image sensor, which produces higher quality video than a CMOS sensor and aids in the positive identification of suspects caught on camera. They also include many image correction and enhancing features. Other advanced features include built-in heaters or wipers for cameras that are exposed to the elements, and pan/tilt/zoom capabilities.

### **2) Indoor or Outdoor?**

Indoor cameras are generally less expensive than outdoor cameras because they are not equipped with weatherproofing. These cameras are ideal for baby or child monitoring, indoor surveillance, and covert monitoring.

Outdoor cameras can of course be placed both indoors and outdoors. It is important to buy an outdoor camera even if you only plan to use it outside occasionally, to protect the circuitry against rain, snow and dust. These cameras are ideal for monitoring your property including your car, pool, and entrances to your home. You can also monitor locations surrounding your business such as parking lots, areas prone to vandalism, and entrance ways.

### **3) Black & White or Color?**

Black and white cameras offer home and business surveillance at a lower cost. These cameras perform the best in lower light settings such as restaurants and outdoor night monitoring. However, any retail application should have at least one color camera on the premises, preferably pointed at the cash register, safe, or other sensitive location. Color cameras are ideal for positive identification of suspects (color of clothes, hair, etc). They also offer better imaging in well lit areas.

### **4) Wireless or Wired?**

Wireless systems offer more freedom and flexibility when installing your security system, and are ideal for video baby monitors. They are easy to set up and provide portability, since you can move the monitor to any location in the house and continue to view what's on your camera, all without the clutter of wires. SVAT uses the 2.4 GHz and 900 MHz radio frequencies; these frequencies transmit through walls and offer superior range. Wireless cameras are especially useful in business settings due to their portability. If you suspect theft in an unmonitored area of your business, you can move the camera to that location easily without the need to run wires.

Wired systems are generally less expensive than wireless systems, and are recommended for business applications where 24 hour monitoring is essential. Wired systems ensure solid performance since they are not affected by radio signals, and provide clear and consistent video imaging. Wired systems are recommended for fixed location monitoring. In addition, if you plan to record your camera footage for long periods of time, it is recommended that you use a wired system.

### **5) Viewing Options – Live Feed or Recording?**

This all depends on the application. For patient or child monitoring, recording is likely unnecessary. Live feed, on the other hand, is important in this application as it allows you to respond quickly to a situation. Many SVAT systems alert you and display your camera's feed on the monitor when motion or sound is detected, ensuring that you can provide help to your child or patient in case there is a problem.

For business surveillance, recording camera footage is highly recommended. Many security monitors come with video out jacks that allow you to connect your VCR for recording. However, a **Digital Video Recorder (DVR)** is a more effective recording device. SVAT's DVRs allow you to record video from multiple cameras at the same time. They record digitally and store the video files on a hard disk or flash card. You can then search and play the recorded footage by time and date. Many DVRs offer weeks of continuous recording and you can set them to record only when motion is detected, which saves disk space and records only what is relevant. Some of SVAT's DVRs feature internet access, which allows you to securely view your DVR and all connected cameras from anywhere in the world!

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