



*"Small Town Atmosphere
Outstanding Quality of Life"*



Tips for Using Security Cameras

When it comes to home security, extra measures never hurt. Sometimes, a thief will completely avoid a home because of the dreaded security cameras and home security systems. Other times, a more arrogant burglar might try to break into your home anyway, but if you have instant notifications, you'll know about it immediately, you can notify the police, and you'll have video evidence in case it's needed.

Ways to maximize the effectiveness of your security cameras:

- Make sure there is proper lighting in the area where cameras are placed
- Get a camera with a live feed and instant text or email alerts
- Record video footage through cloud-based system or web service
- A motion-sensor security camera often works best
- A night camera (infrared) will help capture crooks at night
- Invest in a good camera, so you can get high-quality (HD) images
- Put cameras on both your front and back doors
- Place cameras in areas of the home where burglars would have to walk
- Use both discreet and obvious cameras and try to place them out of reach
- Supplement your real cameras with fake ones if you're on a budget

Pros:

Deter break-ins, especially local ones. Cameras will likely deter local neighborhood burglars. If someone living in your area was going to burglarize your home, they'd probably steer clear of cameras because homeowners will recognize them. Potentially capture images of a criminal in the act of committing a crime on your property. With the proper equipment, cameras can increase the chances that the criminal will be apprehended. Images caught on camera can become useful during prosecution as well.

Cons:

-No guarantee someone won't break in. Many break-ins aren't perpetrated by local residents, so those burglars are less concerned about cameras. Many thieves look right at a security camera, but still burglarize the home.

-It doesn't mean you'll catch the perpetrator. The camera is only as good as the image it captures. Many crooks cover their faces and look down or away from cameras. Some images that are caught on camera during darkness are unable to assist investigators.

-Loss of privacy. Posting cameras in and around your home, even if you're monitoring them yourself, could make some family members feel like they've lost privacy. However, the benefits of security systems may outweigh this concern.

Basic Home Security:

Combine cameras with other prevention efforts, such as an alarm system, and basic home security measures like good lighting and regular maintenance of your yard. Always keep side gates locked, as well as all side entry doors and windows. Consider reinforcing the door frame on your front and side doors to make door kicks more difficult. Update and/or replace old door locks with sturdy dead bolts.

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