

## What you should know when purchasing a digital video recording (DVR) surveillance system

The problem for consumers when selecting one of today's DVR Surveillance Systems is not having the proper information, knowledge and the necessary questions that will help their situation. When you're unfamiliar with the latest equipment and what features will benefit your situation, it's easy to select the wrong equipment. Sadly, you'll never know until it's too late, and that's not the time to find out you made the wrong purchase.

The quality and effectiveness of a digital video recorder is only as beneficial as the DVR and cameras connected to it. That may seem like a simple & obvious statement; unfortunately consumers will try to save money by taking short cuts or purchasing cut-rate equipment. Whereas others simply believe that having a visible "dummy" camera will "scare" someone away. We believe this is like having a safe made out of cardboard, worthless.

As with all security systems, a professional thief can find ways to bypass systems, but knowing a few tricks of the trade can help prevent or at the least, make it harder for them to get away with committing a crime.

### Let's get started!

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#### DVR's

Look for a DVR that has an Internet connection with Email Notification or Smartphone Mobile Connectivity. When someone walks into the cameras frame of view, a trigger activates the DVR that in turn sends a notification to your cell phone\* or any programmed email/IP address. This feature alerts you that something is going on, instead of finding out when you come home or open up your business. We believe it's better to be alerted while the incident is occurring then just reporting it to the police after the fact.

Most DVR's have a feature allowing you to connect your DVR to your existing alarm system. When the DVR detects motion, the DVR will trigger your alarm, thus making your DVR part of your overall security system.

#### Tricks of the Trade

One of the first things a thief will try to locate when they notice security cameras is the digital video recorder. Each item has a value to a thief but most importantly, if they take the DVR there's no evidence.

A trick used in the CCTV industry to mislead a thief is too purchase an inexpensive VCR, then, hide the DVR and make the VCR as visible as possible. Be sure to keep a tape in the unit so the intruder will believe they have escaped with the evidence.

#### Hard Drives

Hard drives found inside DVR's are used to store video and audio. Depending on the length of time you want to store information determines your HD size. Fortunately, ESLI has a [DVR Storage Calculator](#), which will help.

#### Distributed CCTV Power Supplies

Power surges can decrease the cameras life. An excellent way to avoid this is by purchasing a distributed CCTV power supply. Many installers and CCTV suppliers will sell you a power supply for each camera. This costs less, but power cords visible and easily unplugged if located next to the camera.

When using a distributed CCTV power supply, power to the cameras is centrally located. Each camera is individual fused offering a greater reliability factor when compared to individual transformers.



### **CCTV Surveillance Cameras**

Like the DVR, surveillance CCTV Cameras are a vital part of your system, yet people will spend \$29.00 for a camera to protect their business or home. Do you know what you get when you spend \$29.00 for a CCTV camera? You wind up with a \$29.00 camera! That's all right if you're using it to watch your baby from one room to another but not to protect your home or business.

There are several features you need to look for when it comes to selecting the proper CCTV camera. A great place to start is [here](#). Also, keep in mind that if the camera doesn't incorporate Infrared technology, it will be useless in dimly lit or dark areas such as a bar, office building, backyard or parking lot.

Also, never leave the camera wires exposed. This provides the thief with an easy and accessible way of disabling your system. This may seem obvious but you would be surprised how many installers cut corners by not doing something as simple as safeguarding the CCTV wires. Just look around at some cameras at your local stores and you'll see what we are saying.

### ***Tricks of the Trade***

Some thieves will try to locate the wires of the security cameras. While covering or masking their face they will attempt to sever the camera wires in the area they are working or at the entrance and exits of a building.

In high security areas and areas where wires are exposed use electrical conduits to hide and protect video/power cables. This will help eliminate the possibility of severed wires as well as animals "gnawing" on the exposed wires. Electrical conduit may be made of metal, plastic or fiber and some are flexible for special applications. Check with local code for proper conduit.

### **Epilog**

Remember, cutting corners and saving a few bucks may seem reasonable at the time, yet in the end, it may wind up costing you a lot more. Because each CCTV situation has distinctive requirements, you should contact one of our trained representatives to help with your actual situation.

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As with all advice listed on eyespyli.com or other publications, we try to give you a starting point. All CCTV jobs are different and individual needs have to be taken into consideration. Please check with one of our trained representatives with your specific requirements before starting any job.

\*Cell phone must have email capabilities