

Business Tips

Video Surveillance



Placement of cameras is more important than the number of cameras. The lower the camera angle the better. A high camera angle is unlikely to identify an unknown suspect.

Cameras and specifically their lenses are the most overlooked part of a surveillance system. Lenses can make or break a system as they do the focusing. Please consider **high quality name brand cameras**.

Ensure there is **enough light** in areas that are under surveillance.

Images from the surveillance system should be accurately **date and time stamped**.

Use the **lowest compression possible** (i.e., highest quality/larger file sizes). The higher the compression, the worse the image quality will be. It is better to only have enough hard drive space to hold 1-2 weeks of **good quality video** than four or more weeks of poor quality video.

Video from the surveillance system should be recorded at a minimum of 640 X 480 pixels but full HD (1920 X 1080 pixels) or higher is recommended. The number of images recorded per second is important. Full motion video is 30 frames per second (fps) but if your system is recording **full HD** or higher resolution video, 15 fps may be the maximum you should consider.

Consider whether you want the surveillance system recording continuously or only when it detects motion. If it is set to record based on motion, ensure it records 5-10 seconds before/after motion is detected (pre/post record setting).

The Digital Video Recorder (DVR) should have two or more USB ports, preferably a high speed USB 3.0 port for faster video exports.

Learn your DVR so you can review and export video when required. Have at least a couple USB flash drives on hand you can export video to.

If you change the DVR's default password, record it so you won't forget it.