

Using Closed Circuit TV in Your Home

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Plan Your CCTV Strategy: Map Out Your Floor Plan, Use and Budget Before Heading to the Store

If you determine that you need to invest in some CCTV (closed-circuit television) technology for your home or business, you will need to do a lot more than heading to the store and simply buying a box of equipment. As a matter of fact, this is the number one mistake novices to the world of CCTV technology make once they decided that it is time to purchase a system - they fail to plan their CCTV strategy.

You may now wonder what all is involved in planning your CCTV strategy – map out your floor plan, use and budget before heading to the store! Here are the top five tips on how to plan your CCTV strategy correctly.

Consider your purposes. Are you trying to deter crime, or do you want to record it in action? Perhaps you want to do a little bit of both? If so you will need to consider wired as well as wireless cameras. The former are obvious and serve as a great deterrent, while the latter are much more covert and therefore work best for those situations when you want surveillance to be discrete.

Once you have decided on the purposes for your CCTV system, consult an attorney or private investigator on any legal issues involving digital video recording devices and their storage. If you live or do business in Alabama, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, South Dakota, or Utah, you are expressly forbidden from installing hidden cameras in any area that a reasonable person could consider a private area, such as restrooms, toilets, changing rooms, locker rooms, showers, or bedrooms.

Furthermore, employees – especially union workers – have the right to privacy in areas they frequent on their off hours, such as lunch rooms, break rooms, smoking lounges, and anywhere else where you permit your employees to remain when they await their shift to begin.

Once you have the usage squared away and the legalities taken care of, now is the time to find the floor plan for your home or business. If you do not have the original one, simply go ahead and create a new one. The goal of mapping out your floor plan is to find areas that may need special treatment – perhaps they represent special security risks - such as blind corners, dark alleyways, or any other outside feature that may attract vandals or thieves.

Similarly, you will also want to map out the inside to see where your areas of security concern should be. For example, when you operate a store, you will almost always have an area in your venue where theft is more likely to occur – perhaps it is because of the way the shelves are organized, or simply because the corner appears “safe” for would be shoplifters. By mapping out the venue you will be able to install cameras in such strategic places to discourage shrinkage.

Of course, there is another reason for mapping out your place: you will want to be able take a look at the lighting conditions before you purchase any hardware. After all, some cameras have different lighting needs, and if one corner is especially dark, you will want to make sure that you have a camera that can handle it!

Consider your budget. Now that you know why you want your CCTV system and also which components you would ideally like to include, you will need to come to terms with your available budget. If the sky is the limit, it will serve you well to purchase the latest technology. If you do have a budget to which you will have to adhere, it is important that you buy the best technology that you need, not necessarily everything that you want. To this end it was very beneficial to separate your needs from your wants early on in the planning process!

When you decide on the actual brand name, try to stay local. In other words, if you need customer service or technical support, you want to have a company that is local and where a representative will be able to come out and help you on short notice.

Even if another competitor's product is less expensive - if you cannot get local technical support, the money you saved when purchasing the equipment will do nothing when compared to the money you will spend on long distance calls and on the independent technicians you may need to hire to get your system up and running.

Shopping Tips for Purchasing That DVR for Your CCTV

There are a lot of factors involved when buying a DVR, or a digital video recorder, for security at home, or at a business. If you want to purchase a DVR, then check out the benefits of owning one, and how you can decide before you buy one, what's best for you. By spending your hard earned money wisely, you can get the most for your investment.

Technology is changing at a rapid pace, so it's wise to keep pace. If you do you'll be able to keep criminals at bay from your home or store. Read on so you can learn a few shopping tips of benefits and drawbacks when buying your first DVR.

DVR recording is done on a desk-sized machine that is made to put images onto its hard drive space. Its ability to record images is because it's designed embedded with software onto a computer chip inside the machines motherboard. Of course you can buy some hardware and software to go with your PC that will turn it into a DVR image-recording machine, but most people choose to go ahead and invest in the DVR with embedded capabilities.

The decision is of course up to you, and a lot of it depends on what security monitoring you need. Finances is part of the decision too because if you need high-end equipment it'll be more costly than converting your PC into a DVR for recording video. Consideration for long-term security needs is part of a business plan, so think about it carefully.

When buying your first DVR, look for one that has enough hard drive space for recording. Ask yourself if you're going to be viewing full time, or if part time is enough. Look at how many

cameras will be running, and what speed the recording is doing. Frames per second, or fps, are how fast the machine will record pictures in one second of time.

If you're concerned about employees gypping from the cash register till, you might want to consider real time recording from your DVR. Real time recording is considered at least 30 frames per second. Again, it's more costly, but will catch a thief whether they're employed or not. Be warned though, slower fps produce a picture that is jerky in motion, and don't produce as clear of a picture as real time recording.

Hard drive space in particular is important, too, if you've bought a DVR that uses real time recording. If you use it a lot you'll eat up your hard drive space, and will have to start recording over the images that are on the machine. This is not good if you've just caught an illegal activity in your storefront. Consider that you'll need extra space for a good CD burner too.

You don't want to be caught without one if you aren't connected to another camera. If a break in occurs, or shoplifter tries to steal, you want to be able to keep the camera running, and burn it for evidence for the law enforcement officials. There're ways to maximize the use of your hard drive space. It does run the cost up a bit, but it is well worth it for useful hard drive space. You should plan for using your camera at certain times if possible. Schedule when it will be used, and if possible invest in a motion camera that will turn on only when it needs to. This means though that you'll have to use your PC that's converted to get scheduling and motion detection.

Security is so important in today's society, so it's just as important to know what you're buying before you buy it. Be prepared to spend out a little extra cash to get what you need. Not buying enough or the not the right type of equipment for your security is just as bad as not having any protection at all. Shop around for the best prices, and talk with a business security expert that can help you evaluate your needs. Often a sales person will just try to push the most expensive products in DVR and cameras, and won't consider the facts. Get the facts and be prepared for the unexpected.

CCTV Accessories Needed for Security in your Home

If you want to install a CCTV in your home for security, then you'll need to know about a few extras that go along with your camera. Don't be surprised about the decisions that you'll have to make in order to get your video up and running. Know about your choices, and why it's important to pick the right accessories for all of your at home security needs. Read on to learn about the different options you'll need to consider for being safe at home.

Most people don't realize when choosing an at home security camera that the lens are sold apart from the camera itself. Depending on your needs, you'll have to decide on the size of lens. Cameras come with standard formats of viewing. If your camera calls for a certain size lens, such as a ¼ then you should use that size for it. For your lens you'll need to get the type of lens that you want for viewing. Some are fixed to view only a certain range, and others that are higher in price, can be set and readjusted to a larger viewing field. There are lens that zoom by a motor and you can sit back and point them at what you want at a central location.

They're more costly, but if you need to have a wide field of view, at a split second, then you might want to consider this type.

If you want to use your CCTV outside in changing weather, make sure to buy a quality lens that's weather proof, and the lens should be one that has an iris that will expand and contract to let varying amounts of light in. Because light controls part of the clarity of the picture, an iris with an automated lens is the best. However, if you want to use a camera indoors where light can be controlled, then a manual control iris would work just fine. The cost is cheaper, and you don't have to worry inside about weather either. Other options that you'll need to look into are the extra features of zooming, tilting and panning the different area of your camera set up. With these extras it will cost a considerable amount, and you'll need to have an operator to be on site, to get its full benefit.

Mounting your camera and protecting it is of utmost importance. It will do no good to have a camera for your protection at your house if you don't. Stationing your camera needs to be high enough where an intruder can throw a covering over it, or to low where they can unhinge it from the wall, or break it from its mooring either. There are boxes that you can buy that will protect it from impacts. Also, look at weather issues too. In extra heat or fridge temperatures you'll need to look into the coolers and heaters for cameras outside. It's a mechanical device and the weather affects it just like any other type of machinery. Keep a watch on any repairs that need to be made with it, so you won't get stuck with a camera that doesn't work, when you need it too, which is all the time.

Remember, that a camera is only as good as the supporting equipment that you buy. You'll have to balance cost with what you need, or feel that you need, for the complete home security package that you want. If you need a camera that is basic in function then go ahead and get one. You can always upgrade later when your financial situation changes. Most people don't need a camera that has pan, tilt, and zoom features, and can readily get by without having to have an operator on standby to do it. These are much more practical in business use, when there's more traffic and lots of activity both inside and outside a store.

Take the time and learn about the different accessories that you can get to protect your home, family and yourself. Don't rush and buy something that is over the top for your needs, or not enough that it won't protect. You can be safe and secure in your home; all you have to do is study your options in home security cameras.

Keep Your Home a Castle with the Installation of Wireless CCTV

If you truly want to protect your home, you may consider installing a closed circuit television or CCTV for an added sense of security. Besides this, you may consider a wireless CCTV system as even better option in this area. Because of a wireless CCTV systems size, it is easier to install and easier to install tight and varied locations. This can definitely be an advantage when using a CCTV for your home, especially if you are using it inside your house, such as a nanny cam type of device.

One of the main advantages of wireless CCTV inside your home is for those who wish to keep an eye on what is going on at home, when they aren't there. This is where wireless CCTV gained its notoriety, as a nanny cam that can be installed in various objects around the house. The relative simplicity and ease of this can make this an excellent option in these instances.

Another great thing that a wireless CCTV system can be used for is to keep an eye on other rooms in the house, even if you are not there. This can add extra benefits if you hear something and allow you to safely observe the room where you heard it without putting yourself in danger. You could also install one in your garage to keep a close eye on your car. These wireless systems can really have some great advantages if you think about it.

Some of these systems even allow for a wireless monitor to observe from anywhere that you may be. This includes if you are at work or on vacation. Some of these systems even allow you to see what is going on via an Internet connection. This can be a very comforting thought when you are on vacation, you can just type up a web page and look at what is going on around and in your house. This can help deter burglars greatly as well.

If your cameras are very visible at all, burglars can be deterred from your home. While alarm systems alone can deter burglars, CCTV is more likely to do so. This is because a burglar knows that they have a good chance of getting away before someone responds to the alarm. But with a CCTV, even if they get away that night, they could still be identified later on because of the increase in the quality of video recording in this field.

The excellent quality of the video used by wireless CCTV systems is just the beginning. When you use this technology at home you will also find it more convenient in terms of storage space. Since space is limited, you can use a wireless CCTV system and download the images onto your home computer and store all your information on your computer. These files take up much less space than the usual videocassettes that many hardwired systems use.

The same advantage that is had by being able to monitor your home from any Internet connection, can also allow you to view multiple rooms at once. This can be a great convenience, especially if you are on vacation and you cannot actually walk around the house and see what is going on.

It helps to make observing everything more quickly and accurately. Besides observing others with your baby, you can also use wireless CCTV systems to better monitor your baby than just a regular baby monitor. This benefit is a great way to actually look in on your little one without having to get out of bed. You can also link up audio with these systems and hear what is going on at the same time. This can definitely bring you peace of mind.

Of course, with all the benefits of installing a wireless CCTV system in your home, you should also know that the price is coming down and continues to do so. This in itself can be a huge pull in using one of these systems. With the money you can save and the peace of mind that you gain in all aspects of use, why not try out a wireless CCTV system for your home security needs? Wireless CCTV can bring peace of mind more conveniently and easier than most other types of security and should be seriously considered for those looking for great security and ease of mind.

Routine Maintenance Tips for Your Whole CCTV System

Your closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems are your eyes – and sometimes your ears – to find out what is happening in your absence. Security, theft prevention, crime deterrence and other aspects rest heavily on the ability of your CCTV system to function properly at all times. If we could believe the slogan of the infomercial selling a popular brand of rotisserie a few years ago, we would all like to have systems that we can simply apply the idea of “set it and forget it” to.

Yet when security is involved, there is no forgetting – as a matter of fact, individuals components of your security features will need to be tested regularly for functionality and also will need to receive scheduled maintenance to function consistently. Here are some routine maintenance tips for your whole CCTV system:

Replace parts of your CCTV system that are no longer functioning. If they can be repaired, go ahead and get them fixed, but if they cannot, you will need to replace them as soon as they break. For example, if you placed an indoor camera out of doors without a safety cover, you will probably lose the camera very shortly due to the moisture of rain water or sprinklers, or simply because the lens becomes scratched up by flying sand and other debris. Replace this camera as soon as possible!

Whenever a component fails in your CCTV setup, find out if the failure is due to a manufacturing defect, if the unit has reached the end of its useful life, or if it was perhaps not properly used or assigned tasks it was not able to handle.

Check your system setup visually. When it was first installed, you may have had a combination of wired cameras (for visibility and subsequent deterrence) and hidden cameras (for detection) installed. Are the wired cameras still visible? Are the hidden cameras still hidden? If you have used natural agents, such as trees and shrubs to incorporate your cameras into your venue's overall appearance, the changing seasons as well as the natural growth of the plants may have altered the visibility factor. You will need to do some pruning or perhaps even relocating of key cameras to compensate for this.

Check all your wires for corrosion or small damage.

Check all visible components for signs of tampering. Has someone been doing target practice with one of your cameras? Do you see some signs of cutting alongside the wires? Are there scratches on the lens covers? These may be signs that someone has attempted to disable one component of your system and in addition to ensuring that all is still in working order, you will also want to make sure to keep a close eye on that location.

Routine maintenance is also the time to evaluate how your system is functioning overall. Do the monitors you use work for you? Is the resolution adequate? Does the brightness control add to your surveillance's being a snap? If one component is simply not functioning according to your needs, this is a good time to switch it out for something else.

If at all possible, have a manufacturer's representative come out and do a professional once over every so often – preferably once a year.

This will guarantee that the system is in good working order from a technical point of view, rather than just the visual inspection you may be able to do on a regular basis. When you do have a technician come out, make sure you receive copies of his or her findings that you can keep as part of an ongoing maintenance journal.

It is important to remember that only a functioning CCTV system will actually do the work you have installed it for in the first place. Broken components will do precious little to either deter crime or detect it, and non-working equipment may actually give you and your employees a false sense of security.

Additionally, if you should ever have to use the footage recorded with your CCTV technology to go to court, a good defense attorney will attempt to poke holes into your case – first and foremost by questioning the functionality of your system. If the jury cannot make a clear identification from the footage you provided, or if several components are out of commission, the odds are that your entire footage will be discredited.

Common Troubleshooting Tips for Home CCTV Installation

Installing a CCTV system (closed-circuit television system) for your home is no longer an odd proposition. No longer just a vestige of the rich and famous, the current affordability of the various components that make up the CCTV systems make it easy for many everyday people to consider installing such a system for their peace of mind while away from home – either on vacation, on business, or just while at work.

Parents who employ a nanny have long since gotten to know the famous – or infamous – Nanny Cam which will permit them to check in from work to see how things are getting along at home. Of course, with the affordability of the system components being what it is, there is no real surprise in the fact that many such systems can be purchased in a boxed set, ready for in home installation by the hobbyist.

Of course, sometimes even the most accomplished weekend installer will run into some problems, and here are some common troubleshooting tips for home CCTV installation to follow once you have everything installed in your home and hooked up to your personal computer, but you are not getting any images on your monitor:

Do you have the proper system requirements for the software, such as an Intel Pentium processor or its equivalent?

Are you running the required version of Microsoft Windows? If you are running an old version you will need to upgrade to support all the features available.

Do you have enough RAM available – the usual recommendation is 128 MB? If you do not have enough RAM, then your system resources may not allow you to run the programs needed.

Do you have enough hard drive space to accommodate the files you will need to install as well the space you will need to archived materials? If you run out of space, you may not be getting any more current feed.

Will you be able to hook up the cameras and other gadgets in the first place via USB ports on your CPU? If you do not have the proper ports on your computer you will need to purchase an adapter. Keep in mind that sometimes an adapter will take away some of the power of your system, and usually problems can be traced directly to such a component.

Do you have the proper Internet configuration that will permit you to access the system? A dial up connection will prove itself almost worthless when you try to access something as complex as a surveillance file.

Did you check the cables that connect the cameras to the switches or routers? Loose cables or those improperly connected are the bane of the existence of installers and service technicians who often spend valuable time fixing this little flaw.

Did you install more than the recommended number of cameras? For example, some systems can only support three cameras, while others will be able to support six. If you install too many components, the system will break down and not permit you to use it at all. Resist the urge to put splitters into the line to accommodate more cameras; they will only take away from the power that goes to the system components.

Did you follow the manufacturer's recommendation for how to adjust wireless camera pictures?

Are your cameras set up properly for their uses? For example, if you are putting an indoor camera outside when it is dark and you do not have infrared technology in play, you will only see a black or dark screen, nothing more. Similarly, if you place an indoor camera out of doors and allow the elements, such as rainwater or sprinkler drops, to get in touch with the lenses, you will probably damage the sensitive technology, and soon you will be watching a black screen because the camera is damaged.

As you can see, the troubleshooting required for a home CCTV set are very basic, and with an owner's manual and some common sense you should be able to take care of most problems yourself. For the more advanced problems and tech errors, it is always advantageous to purchase a system from a manufacturer who has local offices that will make it a snap to get a customer service representative to dispatch an installer to take a look at your system.

The Size Factor – Just How Small Can Your Cameras Be for a Wireless CCTV System?

You know that there are times when size does indeed matter. If you want to install a small camera for your wireless CCTV (closed-circuit television) system, you know that size is of the essence. Are you worried that you will need to sacrifice resolution in favor of a smaller sized camera? Maybe you are wondering about color versus black and white? Do not fear - you will be surprised just how small your camera can be for a wireless CCTV system!

Micro Video Products produces an X-1000CE model camera that is perfect for indoor as well as outdoor usage. Additionally, it is impact resistant, so that even strong winds or other severe weather conditions will have little if any impact on the camera. Of course, since many times the impact on the outside of a camera may also experience some violence aimed at it, such as rocks or even BB's, this model is designed to handle anything anyone might care to throw at it. You will receive high-resolution color pictures with this 1/3-inch Sony camera. Additionally, you will have 480 lines of television line resolution, and with a need of only 0.01 Lux you will be able to see even in the most dismal of light conditions.

For something even smaller, consider the micro miniature CCD cameras, which measure only .88 x .68 x .98 inches! Sony once again delivers the goods on this one with a super HAD color device. Depending on your lighting situations, you can go as low as 0.5 Lux while other models may require as much as 1.0 Lux to function properly. What these cameras are missing is the ability to zoom in on objects of people.

For those who wish to have the ability to zoom in and maybe even pan and tilt the cameras, you will be able to purchase the 3 X Zoom model. Sony's 1/3-inch high resolution camera which delivers 480 television lines of horizontal resolution is able to operate with questionable light of only 1.0 Lux. The size of the device is a mere 1.5 by 1.5 inches.

If you are interested in combining sound with sight, you will like the idea of the pinhole CAM-019 which only measures about $\frac{3}{4}$ by $\frac{3}{4}$ inches. This camera is so small that it is barely larger than a penny and just about as easy to hide somewhere. Due to the special design of this camera, it can be hidden in tight spaces without overheating or giving away its location by heating up its hiding place.

As you can see, size does indeed matter when purchasing the smallest possible camera for your CCTV system. Yet while there are many models out on the market, here are some things to remember before you head to your camera store:

It is important to make sure that any camera upgrades will be compatible with the CCTV system you already have. It would be a useless undertaking to upgrade your camera only to realize that now you will also need to update your monitors and other devices.

Before installing smaller cameras, make sure that your fitting will support them. Otherwise, you will also need to purchase the proper fittings to permit your smaller cameras to seamlessly blend into the background.

If you are planning on hiding a camera in a spot that may be close to customers or employees, be sure to purchase a model that will not overheat, even in confined spaces, and that will not give away its existence or location by even slightly heating up the object you are choosing to conceal it with.

Always purchase a model that is manufactured locally or where a customer service center is attached locally. If something goes wrong, or if you need technical help, it is good to know that a manufacturer's representative is just a phone call away and will be able to come out and take a look at your system.

When deciding on a smaller camera, decide if you want to have color or black and white pictures, and also consider if you want to have the ability to pan back and forth and maybe even tilt the camera. Again, if the previous set-up did not permit for these actions, you will most likely have to modify the mountings a bit or simply purchase new ones.

Your Camera Can Make the Difference in Your Wireless CCTV System

Your closed-circuit television (CCTV) system is only as good as its eyes – in other words, the very cameras that are attached to it. Did you know that your camera can make the difference in your wireless CCTV system between working as you intended it to work, and simply taking up space and accomplishing little else? How will you know if you have the right camera for the job?

Wireless Cameras

Wireless cameras are very useful when you want to make your cameras less obvious. You may want them to blend into your décor a little more while still being obvious enough to serve a deterrent purpose. Yet because of the missing wires, they are much easier to conceal than their wired cousins. Additionally, they may provide for the up close and personal surveillance you may need when dealing with highly valuable bits of small merchandise, such as small precious stones – if you run a jewelry business.

At this point you might wish to conceal a wireless camera nearby in an ordinary object, such as a flowerpot. Of course, keep in mind that by their very nature, wireless cameras are far less deterrent than their obvious counterparts, thus they are usually used to capture theft in progress or provide the evidence needed for a successful prosecution of a thieving employee or customer.

Wireless Outdoor Cameras

Wireless outdoor cameras are specifically designed to withstand the elements and fluctuating temperatures. If you were to mount a simple indoor camera in its stead, you will probably have to replace it quite frequently, since the water from rain or sprinklers, and the harsh sand and temperature changes will take their toll on the equipment.

Another thing to consider when setting up your outdoor camera are the changing light conditions - become familiar with the “lux” rating (a camera’s ability to measurably use light), and purchase a camera that has a very low lux rating, since this will permit you to have a functioning camera even when there is very little light available. If you are wiring a highly sensitive area, you may want to rely on infrared technology to receive images even when light sources may be absent or disabled.

Wireless Remote Controlled Cameras

Wireless remote controlled cameras are the crème de la crème of surveillance technology, and if you are operating the CCTV system for a bank or casino, you will most certainly want to make

use of these devices. Unobtrusively located in several corners along the perimeter of the venue, or sometimes right in the middle of the location, you or your designated representatives will be able to observe individuals during retail transactions that may appear suspicious for a number of reasons. Additionally you will be able to focus on suspicious employees when they change designated stations.

Wireless Security Cameras

Usually these devices are installed on the outside of businesses; such as in parking lots or on the perimeters of buildings to serve as a deterrent against break-ins and also robberies. In some cases you will find them also in the lobbies of banks where security is of the utmost importance and where their very presence will serve to deter would-be criminals.

As you can see, the effectiveness of your CCTV system is only as good as the cameras that you have hooked up to it. If you choose the wrong kind of camera for a location you will either end up having to replace it frequently because it is not able to handle the site's weather, or you will be left with useless footage, such as if your camera's light needs are too high for the location where it is mounted.

Similarly, you will need to consider that some locations will actually benefit from highly visible cameras to serve as deterrents, while in other places the more overt usage of partially hidden cameras will serve to capture those individuals who were not adequately deterred in the first place. While it may not occur to you – especially when installing a CCTV system for the very first time – to have cameras be in the direct line of sight and obvious, this is a well-known tactic in the security industry and has yielded measurable results.

Choosing Your Monitor for a Wireless CCTV: What to Look for

While your CCTVs cameras are the eyes, your monitor will be the readable output for you. As such, you will want to consider which monitor will best suit your needs. Obviously, if you have color cameras, you will also want to invest in a color monitor, whereas if you have black and white cameras, you will be able to get away with a black and white monitor.

Of course, there are also other considerations to keep in mind when choosing your monitor for a wireless CCTV – what to look for is oftentimes simplicity:

Consider your spatial needs. Will you install one monitor and view the pictures of several cameras via the split screen option, or will you prefer to install a number of monitors for easier viewing? If you decide to install a larger number of monitors, you may wish to look for smaller monitors rather than the full size models you would pick if you only chose to have one or two. Similarly, if you decide to go with a larger number of monitors, you will need to allocate more space. Therefore, it is important to first answer the question of “how many monitors do you need” followed by the question of “how much space do I have?”

Know your budget. How much money do you have allocated in your budget for these monitors? Have the cameras already eaten up a lot of your budget, or do you still have a lot left that you can devote to the purchase of monitors?

Some manufacturers will offer to sell you cut-rate monitors. While this may be acceptable, it is important to find out if they offer adequate resolution as well as screen adjustment options for brightness, color, and also other settings you would expect to find on a monitor. While the cameras that will send their images to your monitor will provide you with the best picture they can, you may be able to enhance the images somewhat by using the monitor controls.

Take a look at the nitty gritty. This refers to the tech talk and may include terms such as “contrast ratio” and “brightness.” The contrast ratio is simply the measurable difference in the intensity of light between the brightest white when compared to the darkest black that your monitor is capable of producing. Obviously, a higher ratio means that you will have a crisper picture, while a lower ratio means that you may not have the ability to see details as well. The bare minimum of resolution that you should accept is 400:1.

Brightness on the other hand may be measured in the unit of “candelas” which is often abbreviated as “cd.” It simply refers to the measurable amount of light that is emitted by a screen displaying the purest white. You may be told when shopping for computer monitors that brightness is not good, since it can strain the eyes – but be aware that this pertains to the text applications! Since you will be looking at videos on your monitor, you will want to have all the brightness possible. A top of the line monitor should have about 250cd or maybe even more.

Of course one of the most important aspects of buying a quality monitor does not come in the box: the technical support that stands behind it. Sure, you can get a great deal on some equipment that is on close out sale, but is the manufacturer local? Is the company still in business? If something breaks or suddenly stops working, will you be on the phone with a tech support person in New Delhi or will you have a manufacturer’s representative in your office within 24 hours to fix it?

Whatever money you may be saving on those cut rate monitors you will most likely spend when trying to get a bug fixed and being on hold for long periods of time, or finally having to hire an independent installer.

As you can see, the consideration that needs to go into the purchase of the cameras also needs to extend to the purchase of the monitors. Do not go gung ho on the one, only to have to skimp on the other. After all, the picture of even the best camera money can buy will do you little good if you have a monitor that is incapable of displaying it properly.

The Benefits of Using Wireless CCTV Over Other Surveillance Options

There used to be a lot of cumbersome and expensive detail involved in installing a CCTV system. The technology in the past wasn't very well suited for most people and took up a lot of space, not only in the equipment but also in the tapes that were collected from the camera. The

wires would hang all over the place and were hard to hide if you were looking to keep the surveillance a secret from whomever you were trying to catch.

This type of system was not the best for most situations. However with the advent of the wireless CCTV system it has made it a lot easier to have a CCTV system as an option for security, whether it is for home or a business.

A wonderful benefit to wireless CCTV systems is that they are easier for individual homeowners to use and afford. The wireless systems have made it a lot easier for homeowners to be able to afford these as an option for home security. Not only is it cheaper for individuals but it also easier to install, making the option more appealing to those who want better security for their homes. These types of security devices can also be set up almost anywhere and because they are wireless are a lot easier to place outside if needed against unwanted intruders.

Another great thing that has been seen in regards to wireless CCTV systems as compared to the more traditional options is the fact that these systems can be monitored from any location. As long as you have an Internet connection, you can link up to your security system at any time from any place. This can be a lot more convenient for most people and for most businesses as well.

If you are away on vacation and you want to make sure everything is okay, all you have to do is hook up to the Internet and take a look around. This can give you better peace of mind and help to make your time away more enjoyable.

Of course, the convenience of wireless CCTV has seen it's greatest benefit in concerned parents. By being able to hide these cameras almost anywhere from the watchful eye of the babysitter, parents can find out how their kids are being treated by these care takers when they aren't around. The protection of their children has made the convenience of these wireless CCTV systems invaluable.

No wires to mess with and smaller sizes means that they are easily concealable and can offer greater safety for children and more peace of mind for parents. If anything is suspected it can be found out. Not only can it be found out but also the quality of a lot of these systems can help make the evidence undeniable later on in court.

Another amazing benefit of wireless CCTV systems versus more traditional one is the fact that they can record almost endlessly. This is because the images can be downloaded directly as files onto home computers and stored, and therefore free up space for more recording. The images are clearer and take up less space then the more traditional forms of CCTV.

Something else very interesting about wireless CCTV is the fact that it is linked up to a web server and the images can be directly linked to the police, offering faster response in some instances. Besides this you can also have motion sensors installed that offer a better sense of security and can save time, power but also recording time as well. These last few features are truly unique to the wireless CCTV systems as compared to the more traditional venues of surveillance.

As you can see, the advantages of using a wireless CCTV can far outweigh the benefits of the regular and more traditional surveillance systems. Not only can you save money but also you will have a better sense of security with this system. You will also find that the wireless CCTV system will be easier to install and can offer a lot more covertness in some instances that call for it. In the long run wireless CCTV can be a cheaper, easier and more convenient option than other surveillance systems.

Surveillance Needs: CCTV Wireless an Option?

For those who feel that they could use an added touch of security in their lives, there are now great options that will make your choices far easier. There are many ways to ensure that your home or business is safe from crime. These ways, however, require a fair bit of money or time invested to get the security system just right. With the use of home security systems in place all across North America, it is no wonder people are actually trying to utilize the trends and go with the technical flow.

Sometimes home security systems are just not enough; in these cases people tend to look for more. This is where CCTV, or closed circuit television come into play. Many people have often thought of it as a solution for their home or business security, yet felt that it is too expensive or too difficult to operate. Today the costs of the CCTV are relatively low, and the ease of operation is been made user friendly. This will allow for the average Joe to have CCTV in their home or business, and keep the bad guys where they belong-- outside.

There are many different forms of CCTV, and with the way the tech society is running, one can expect several different models to be brought out by the end of this year. When it comes to surveillance cameras, many people shy away because they feel that it will require a specialist to come in and wire everything. Once the camera is set and wired, they feel that they are stuck with the camera being in that particular spot because of all the wiring.

What if you could actually pick up one of those cameras and move it from location to location with out all of those nasty wires being a problem? Would you consider buying a CCTV setup then? Well there is hope, as there are actually cheap wireless CCTV packages available on the market. They are extremely easy to install and setup, and if you do not like the location that you put it in originally, then simply move it.

The greatest part about wireless CCTV is that it is very flexible. You have an endless array of options when it comes to wireless CCTV. You are not stuck and bound by where you place the camera due to unsightly wires. There are many practical purposes for the wireless CCTV setup around your home or business. You could use it to keep intruders out, as well as keep your eye on individuals that you may feel are being less than honest.

While it is illegal to place cameras in washrooms or changing room stalls, there are many locations where these handy cameras can be placed to monitor the activities of customers, staff, or people in or around your home. This is a very good method of deterrence as well, should someone happen to see the cameras they will more often than not avoid the home or

business all together when it comes to breaking in. This will not stop everyone however, so either way they will avoid or get filmed and hopefully prosecuted.

If you happened to purchase a CCTV setup that is wireless, and you have installed several cameras around your home and you do not like one of the locations, you can just pick it up and move it to another spot. It is this ease of use that is making these CCTV wireless systems so popular with law enforcement and government agencies today. Wireless CCTV allows for temporary coverage, or permanent watching it is all up to the operator of the system.

This flexibility is why people are finding it actually a large benefit to their homes and small businesses alike. If you think that you may be interested in a wireless CCTV setup, you will not have to look very far to find one, as they are virtually everywhere you find CCTV systems today. You could do a search over the Internet and find many packages available today for a great cost and they do have staff that can install the system should you feel you cannot do it yourself.

The Mobility of Wireless CCTV and What's in Store for the Future

Many CCTV systems are now switching over to wireless units and this is definitely becoming a trend in the area of CCTV technology. There are many different aspects to this new technology that is developing. Wireless technology in CCTV systems can be deployed in many different forms and continues to develop on a day-to-day basis. Besides the fact that wireless systems are more compact and mobile, there are many other advances that are happening in this field.

One aspect of this wireless CCTV that is developing involves GSM, or global system for mobile communication, technology that allows for these systems to be easily transported. This type of technology can also allow users to hook up to live Internet feed. You can then view your images from anywhere at any time that you have an Internet connection. Whether that is on a PC, a mobile phone or a laptop, this definitely increases the mobility of a wireless CCTV system.

With this new technology involved in GSM and the new updates with the third generation connections involved, there have been many updates in the size of the cameras available. The advances with third generation connections have definitely help to improve the mobility of CCTV systems. By developing systems that are even smaller and more compact they can easily be used almost anywhere or hidden in almost any space.

Yet with the advancements, it has also been possible to keep the same level of sophistication that is experienced with less mobile units. Some of the ways that are being looked at to use this type of technology includes linking directly to squad cars so that police can see what is happening before they get there. Another idea that is being considered is setting up a worldwide network to combat the ever-increasing problem of terrorism. These ideas are still in the beginning stages, but with the advancements in wireless technology and mobility; it is definitely headed there.

There are those who see a few obstacles to the wireless CCTV revolution. These perceived obstacles include the security of the line that is being used in wireless systems. Some people

perceive there to be less security over a wireless line, compared to a hardwired line. This is because a wireless line is more vulnerable to those who wish to hack into the line to interrupt the signal. Another perceived obstacle includes the reliability of the line to connect up with the nodes on the system. Both of these issues have been looked at and this is what has been come up with in regards to them.

As far as the security issue that has been looked at and seems to hinder the progression of wireless CCTV systems, encryption has become a major player. The encryption level on a lot of these newer systems, reach the level of NATO even. Also many strides have been made as far as reliability, new technologies and strides are being made every day. Of course have also cited capacity and simplicity as actual problems in a wireless CCTV system.

This is because some people perceive that wireless systems would have less recording capacity then most other CCTV systems. This is just untrue though because a lot of CCTV systems can be linked up with the Internet or a computer and download any images they have recorded, therefore having virtually unlimited capacity.

Also, as far as simplicity goes, a lot of people worry that wireless CCTV is too complicated to hook up or install. This is also untrue, while at first it may have been more cumbersome, because so many people were unfamiliar with this type of technology, it has become less and less burdensome as technology has improved and as people have learned more about it.

With so many advantages to wireless CCTV, it is definitely where the future is pointing in terms of CCTV systems. The different levels of security and the encryption definitely make it even more secure then older systems. Wireless CCTV also allows for easier access from any location that has an Internet connection. A lot of governments worldwide are seeing this trend and tending to follow. With so much convenience and ease associated with a wireless CCTV system, why wouldn't more people be headed in that direction? It only makes the most sense.