

DVRs for Surveillance



DVRs can do a lot more than record your favorite TV programs and fast-forward through commercials. There are a variety of DVRs, one is an entertainment DVR, such as TiVo; another is a security DVR used to capture surveillance footage.

Security DVRs are a comprehensive physical security and surveillance tool. DVR kits intended for security (or surveillance) are designed as a simple DIY surveillance project home or office use; these kits offer simple plug and play installations and easy to use interfaces. DVR kits utilizing BNC cabling are ideal for those seeking to upgrade existing CCTV systems.

DVRs use analog cameras. One major downfall of DVRs was the lack of compatible cameras that offered high quality HD video. However, analog cameras that offer 1080p Full HD resolution that rival the quality of many IP cameras are now available at a significantly reduced cost. When considering DVRs, be sure to check the resolution of supported cameras; many DVR kits only include 720p HD cameras.

Quick Fact!

Using existing cabling helps to save on installation cost as cabling can get quite expensive. On average, cabling infrastructure is expected to last at least 20-25 years.



DVR Kit Features

DVR use is very flexible. DVRs have a wide range of available features including the number of channels supported, HDMI/VGA support, audio in and out ports, USB ports, multi-camera viewing, auto-scanning, and more. A surveillance DVR is an easy and affordable DIY home surveillance solution. Many kits include pre-installed hard drives and various amounts of cameras to fit most needs. DVRs are commonly used to passively monitor their properties or homes, while others proactively use DVRs for security purposes. Whatever your purpose or need, there is a DVR for you.



DVRs use a variety of protocols. When considering a DVR solution be sure that all the cameras and DVRs are using the same protocols to avoid any incompatibility issues.

Quick Fact!

One of the most common protocols supported by DVRs and cameras is ONVIF.



Benefits of a DVR Surveillance System Kit

- No PC required
- Plug and play installation
- Centralized video storage
- Advanced video playback
- Simple and intuitive user interface
- Support for remote access to DVR and cameras
- DVR conveniently powers all cameras
- Uses any existing BNC cabling
- Affordability

DVR installation in just 3 steps

1. Install your DVR in the desired location

We recommend installing your DVR in a secure location such as in a locked closet or basement. Your preferred location may differ based on your home's setup. Some users choose to place their DVR in a living room or office for easy access to stored footage.



2. Install your cameras in the desired locations

Cameras are available in different resolutions and may be better suited for specific environments. Some cameras are built for indoor use, outdoor use, or both. Be sure you have chosen a DVR kit with cameras that meet your needs.



3. Watch surveillance video from your cameras

Your surveillance video can be viewed using a display such as a TV or monitor wired directly to your DVR, from a web browser at a secured remote site, or with a mobile app. (Some DVRs and DVR kits may not offer all of these viewing options).



Remote Access

In order to access your DVR remotely over the internet, your DVR must be connected to a router that supports port forwarding. For help with port forwarding on a TRENDnet or any other router, please visit portforward.com/router. This site offers detailed instructions for several router models.



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