



Security Camera Buying Guide – From HSI Security



HSI Security is a market-leading provider of integrated security, and we know buying a security camera is a game-changing move for protecting your business or property from serious problems like theft, vandalism and burglaries. If you are a business owner or homeowner, buying a security camera from HSI Security will give you peace of mind knowing that what you care about is being protected. And knowing which security camera to buy requires having the right information for making the most informed decision.

This buyer's guide will provide you with helpful information on which type of security camera best fits your need. Before buying a security camera, the most important consideration is the type of environment your camera will be monitoring. Some of the most important considerations include:

- Will the security camera need to operate in low-light conditions at night or in dark areas?
- Will the security camera be used outdoors, exposed to rain, wind and weather?
- Will the security camera be expected to cover a wide-ranging area? How far away from potential vulnerable areas will the camera be?
- Is there a need or desire to have digitally integrated camera systems?

Common Security Camera Locations

We've separated common locations where security cameras are placed into four separate categories. Each category features unique differences and needs.



• Indoor areas

- Interior of homes, office buildings, restaurants, apartment complexes, stores, gas stations, schools, sporting arenas, hotels, casinos, etc.



• Outdoor areas

- Exterior of office buildings, apartment complexes, homes, stores, schools, religious institutions, arenas, stadiums, gas stations, busy streets and intersections, highways, parking lots, etc.



• High Traffic areas

- Busy streets and intersections, highways, arenas and stadiums, casinos, hotels, malls, etc.



• **Large Space areas**

- Parking lots, highways, parks, retail centers and malls, etc.

Determining the location of the security camera leads into decisions about the types of cameras as well as the lenses needed.

Types of Security Cameras

Clearly, there are a lot of different variables to account for when trying to buy the right type of camera. With that in mind, the camera types listed below address some of the common security needs in different ways. The Internet Protocol (IP) and Analog video security cameras we offer include:



- **Dome cameras** – Named for its dome shape, these cameras function well in a wide range of indoor and outdoor environments. Common locations include office buildings, restaurants, apartment complexes, busy streets and intersections, warehouses, retail stores, gas stations, hotels, casinos and gyms.



- **Box cameras** – Named for its box shape, these cameras have a protective box exterior and operate well in indoor and outdoor environments. Common locations include office buildings, restaurants, apartment complexes, warehouses, retail stores, gas stations, utility poles and busy streets and intersections.



- **Bullet cameras** – Named for its resemblance to a rifle bullet shell, these cameras work well in indoor and outdoor locations. Common locations include office buildings and homes with small rooms or small spaces to monitor.



- **Pan, tilt and zoom (PTZ) cameras** – These security cameras have multi-directional flexibility in indoor and outdoor environments and work well in areas with large groups of people. Common locations include office buildings, restaurants, apartment complexes, retail stores, construction sites, warehouses, gas stations, TV studios, casinos, arenas and stadiums, homes and busy streets and intersections.



- **Thermal and infrared cameras** – These security cameras detect light coming from an object or person in dark indoor and outdoor environments. Common locations include military bases and office buildings with a security staff that needs this specific type of advanced surveillance.

Security Camera Lens Considerations

Two types of security camera lenses are fixed and varifocal. Fixed lenses have a set angle (like a wide angle) and does not have zoom capability. Varifocal lenses are the opposite in that the viewing angle can be changed and zooming are possible.

Resolution is also a critical consideration for those purchasing security camera systems. We've all seen news stories with blurry CCTV videos capturing a crime, but unable to identify details on any suspect. Ideally, your camera system should be able to capture enough detail to show identifying features within the environment that you would expect crime to be committed. In other words, if you expect a building to be most vulnerable at night, you should make sure that your camera system's resolution is effective in dark environments.

Security Camera Brands

At HSI Security, we offer our customers dome, box, bullet, PTZ and thermal and infrared security cameras from industry-leading brands to ensure your security concerns are comprehensively addressed, like Napco, Avigilon, Hikvision, Aiphone, 2GIG, Digital Watchdog, Nortek Security & Control LLC, Axis Communications, Rasilient Systems, Salient Systems, Hanwha Techwin America and Milestone Systems.



Security Cameras for Different Organization Sizes

Your organization's size will impact your decision making for determining which security camera will best address your safety concerns. Obviously, you will need more security cameras for larger organizations and properties than for smaller businesses or properties. When your goal is to survey a specific area(s), however large or small, you want that spot covered with a security camera with the right capabilities. You may need to buy multiple types of security cameras for different functions or locations for both large and small organizations.



Security Camera Budgeting

Whether you intend to buy a single security camera or a fleet of security cameras, staying within your budget is of paramount importance. For a more cost-effective way of securing your business, analog HD-TVI security cameras often can be just as effective at providing security as connected IP cameras. On the other hand, for organizations that have more needs and that want to be able to monitor security from anywhere, internet-connected IP camera systems are far more versatile.



Consider a HSI Security Consultation

The footage security cameras capture is invaluable for businesses and homeowners because theft, vandalism and damage can cripple a business or property with high long-term costs, both in money and the irreplaceable feeling of safety. We hope this buyer's guide provides you with the information and confidence to start a conversation for choosing the right security camera and protective security system that will change your life for the better.

For a free security consultation with our knowledgeable staff, please contact HSI Security professionals today.



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