

What can video surveillance do for you?

An affordable way to add another level of security

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Video security is no longer just for large businesses or high-profile retail storefronts. Today's video surveillance systems are affordable, integrate easily with a variety of other security technologies and give businesses or facilities of all sizes an added level security and peace of mind.

While video systems may not always be considered a standard component of a simple access control system, they may be a smart upgrade for your business. Because today's systems record events digitally, video surveillance no longer needs to involve large equipment or tape storage. Here are a few things you may want to consider when deciding on the components of your system:

Traffic flow in your business

In a busy store, restaurant, medical office, church or other high-traffic office it can be difficult to keep track of all the people who come in and out each day. Video surveillance provides an additional set of "eyes" that also serve to prevent loss and reduce risk and liability. Visible video surveillance systems minimize the opportunity for theft or violence, and provide you an indisputable record of any activity that does occur.

Your overall security budget

You may think it will cost less to hire on-site security, whether it's after-hours only or around the clock. But hiring security guards can be expensive, not to mention difficult to manage. Video surveillance can do the job of multiple security officers 24/7/365. Video doesn't take breaks, it can be in more than one place at a time and is more reliable than the naked eye or a person's memory should you ever have to prosecute a crime.

Manageability of your security

What's great about today's security systems, including video, is that they can be managed from a remote location. Video surveillance systems that are integrated into a web-based security system can typically be accessed from any networked computer, including your home or smart phone, if that's what you prefer, so you can be everywhere, even when you're not.

What can video surveillance do for you?

How you want to use video security

The most common uses for video surveillance are to prevent theft/shoplifting, deter crime, monitor traffic and identify people. Video surveillance can also reduce your liability by providing a visual record of what happened if a visitor slipped on the floor, a theft by an employee was suspected or any other crime takes place in your office or on your premises. If these are your primary goals you may be able to choose a lower cost system with black and white images. However, a color system will provide more accurate images that can be used to make a more exact identification of a person should a crime occur.

You should also consider what and how you want to see things:

- How far away is the person/area you want to see?
- What are the lighting conditions?
- Do you need to see outdoors or indoors?
- How wide a viewing angle do you need?

The answers to these questions can help you choose the right kind of camera, the correcting mounting or enclosure needed and even how it is integrated into your system.

How you want to view – and store - your surveillance videos

There are many choices for viewing surveillance video, and what's right for you will depend on your budget, the space available for housing the supporting technology and how much footage you want to record and archive. The choices for viewing range from single monitors to banks of monitors with multiple views of a building. Some systems allow you to view surveillance images from a smart phone with internet connectivity.

Recording the footage can be as simple as recording it with your computer to a DVR system or a time-lapse recorder. Short- and long-term storage should also be considered; some businesses only keep 24-48 hours of footage, while others use servers for long-term video storage.

Ultimately, the right video security system for your business is one that is easy to use, integrates with your other security technology, and lets you manage and access video in a way that works for you.

Learn more about securing your facility

For more information about how Allegion products fit into an integrated security solution, please contact a professional security consultant in your area by calling **888.758.9823** or fill out the **Contact Us** form on our website at allegion.com.

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