



What Are Smart Doorbells?

Smart doorbells provide an easy way to see who is at your door. By hooking up your doorbell to your smartphone, easily finding out who is at your door gives you peace of mind and adds a new level of security and convenience.

What are the benefits of smart doorbells?

Smart doorbells feature a variety of safety and convenience features. Smart doorbells include cameras, which can show you who is at your door—and record, in case there is suspicious activity. Some even include motion detection, so the camera will activate even if someone isn't specifically ringing your doorbell. Since you can answer the door without going to it, people with mobility issues are given the freedom of not having to get up and run to answer. This is also a great feature if you're away from home and want to answer the door—or if you see someone and don't want to alert them that you're there. ■

How do smart doorbells work?

Smart doorbells hook up to your existing WiFi network, and connect to your smartphone over that same network. They include two-way audio (microphones and speakers), and replace the doorbell you are currently using. Some use batteries, while others will need to be hard-wired to be powered. ■

What are the challenges of smart doorbells?

Smart doorbells are not full security systems. While they do have a camera (and motion detector), they are not always recording, so we do not recommend using them as a first-line defense against theft. As with most smart devices, the cost of a smart doorbell is much greater than their traditional counterpart, but considering the camera and motion detection capabilities alone, the price is quite reasonable. Installation is usually easy and secure, but you will not be able to easily disguise that you have a doorbell camera (compared to some other smart outdoor products, which try to blend in with traditional fixtures). ■



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