



What Are Smart Security Cameras?

Smart security cameras provide the ability to keep an eye on things in and around your home. These motion-activated cameras can let you know when your loved ones come home, or when someone's somewhere they shouldn't be.

What are the benefits of smart security cameras?

In a word: security, which is very important to many people. A 2015 Coldwell Banker Real Estate and CNET survey on smart homes found that 72% of respondents said smart home products make them feel safer. The National Association of REALTORS® Smart Homes & REALTORS® survey found 81% of clients were interested in smart home devices that promote security. Smart security cameras are clearly a part of this landscape. Some insurance companies offer discounts if smart cameras are installed in a residence. ■

How do smart security cameras work?

Smart security cameras (both indoor and outdoor models) use your home's WiFi to transmit live video on demand to your smartphone, allowing you to see what's going on in and around your home. Apps that work with the cameras can be configured to notify you only at certain times of day, or when no one is home. Some have facial recognition capabilities that can decrease the possibility of "false alarms," and most can automatically arm themselves when no one is at home. Depending on the manufacturer, video footage can be saved to a small memory card, saved to a service such as Dropbox, or stored online by the camera maker. ■

What are the challenges of smart security cameras?

Some smart security cameras require a hard-wired power connection. While it's possible to use existing wiring (say, from an outdoor porch light), installation can be intimidating for some users. There's virtually no choice with regards to aesthetics: most manufacturers make only one model of indoor and outdoor camera, in one color. Costs can add up when a company charges the user to store video. ■



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