

Hardwire Alarm Systems

When it comes to home security, a hardwired alarm system is simply the most reliable burglary deterrent device on the market. With a hardwired kit every motion sensor, smoke detector, contact and siren is generally wired directly into the system's central control panel, which greatly reduces the possibility of a false alarm, as well as tampering.

Indeed, when it comes to a wireless kit, the central station generally functions as an all-in-one device. Burglars wishing to break into a property with a wireless alarm system installed can potentially disarm the unit by simply damaging the control panel, which houses the dialer and siren within. With a hardwired system, however, all of these parts exist independently, so damaging or disarming the device through brute force would take much longer and perhaps be entirely in vain.

There is no doubt that installing a hardwired alarm system can be time consuming, and homeowners wishing to go this route should prepare to be meticulous. For the user building a brand new home or property, however, there is no question that a hardwired alarm system is the way to go, as the installation process would not only be easier during the construction process, but making the system a permanent fixture in the property would add precious long-term value to it as well.

Wireless Alarm Systems

While a Hardwired Alarm System might be an ideal choice for anyone building new property, those looking for a quick do-it-yourself (DIY) solution should look into purchasing a Wireless Alarm System. We carry a variety of DIY Wireless Security Systems, with models by DSC, GE Security and Visonic being among our most popular and best-selling.

With a Wireless Kit you can avoid the complicated drilling, hammering and installation process often associated with hardwired systems. Offering user-friendly plug-n-play technology that provides complete security for your home, our Wireless Alarm Systems come complete with various motion detectors, contacts, remote control key fobs, and powerful control panels that can simultaneously function as controller, receiver, sounder and keypad in some systems (see [PowerMax Design Express](#)). Additionally, our Wireless Kits are easily expandable and offer additional wireless and hardwired zones, so larger spaces can include the number of sensors they need to ensure they are fully protected.

One of the most convenient reasons to own a Wireless Burglar Kit is that you can integrate a [GSM module](#) into the unit. A GSM module is a unit that allows you to control and communicate with your Wireless Kit remotely using any cellular phone. This means you can be alerted instantly of a burglary, fire, or tampering, anywhere in the world through a call on your private cell phone, or even through SMS (text) messaging. Additionally, the module allows easy arming, disarming and programming options for your system from anywhere by simply calling or sending an SMS (text) message of your own!

Spy Gear

Home Security Store makes buying spy gear easy. We have done the research and testing for you and have brought in only the top of the line products. Our products are quality made and professional grade – in short, they are the real deal. Our surveillance and spy equipment are what professional private investigators and law enforcement personnel use every day to bust the bad guys.

Nowadays so many online retailers are selling spy equipment, but if you look closely, most of it is junk. With Home Security Store, we assure you that this is not the case. We've got quality products at great prices. Most of our spy gear units are plug and play products, which eliminate the need for tedious setup and make it easy to retrieve recorded footage.

In addition to spy cameras, we have [spy computer software](#). Some of the software we carry is designed so that you can monitor a computer's usage and you can even do so remotely.

Other software allows you to retrieve deleted messages off an iPhone. So whether you are looking to spy on a spouse, or want to monitor your child's internet use, or merely want to have a second pair of eyes and ears on things, we've got the spy and surveillance equipment to fit your needs.

GPS Tracking Devices

Whether it's for your child's sake or for business, GPS tracking devices can be a useful tool in knowing where someone is at. GPS offers the latest that technology has to offer and gives you the advantages you need to extend your umbrella of security beyond your own home.

GPS stands for Global Positioning System. This is a space-based global navigation satellite system that provides reliable location and time information in all weather conditions and at all times where a line of site is established. Home Security Store carries several GPS tracking devices, some of which can track not only someone's whereabouts, but speed, temperature, and time. Furthermore, we have such systems in that the user can set a safety zone in which an alert is issued if the tracking device travels outside that particular zone.

GPS units have far surpassed just being a directional device for use in a car. It can be used for other serious applications, such as tracking your kids at a busy sporting event or to and from school. On the other hand, it can also be used for more fun applications, such as tracking a hiking, boating, or aircraft adventure.

Safes

Coming home to a house that has just been robbed is a horrible feeling. The thought of someone in your house going through your personal items isn't very good. The first thing one does when this happens is rush to where they put their most personal possessions, and if they weren't properly protected they are most likely gone. Burglars can find anything in your house and there is no telling what they could do with your personal items and personal information. To prevent these items to get stolen, it is essential that you lock them up in a safe.

There are a number of secure safes that are efficient, but none quite measure up to the new biometric wall safe and gun safe. It truly is a homeowner's dream comes true whether you are looking to place expensive jewelry, money, or a handgun in. While they can be quite pricey, it is hard to put a price on valuables to this degree.

The new fingerprint biometric wall safe can keep handguns, jewelry, and personal items more secure than any other safe on the market. There are two compartments in the safe, the main storage unit and the hidden storage unit. The main storage unit can hold jewelry and approximately two handguns, while the hidden unit can accommodate ammunition and other small personal items.

What truly blows this safe out of the water is its technical physicality's making it virtually impossible to break into. The biometric wall safe and gun safe has cutting edge biometric finger recognition technology and a heavy stainless steel construction. With this, you can rest assured that your valuables are 100% safe from any harm.

Burglars can use personal items and information for a lot of things. It can result in identity theft or even something worse. There is no better way to reduce the risk of these items getting stolen than getting a safe.

Access Control

A Business and Homeowner's Basic Guide to Access Control

Access control in its basic definition can be anything from scanning your work badge for permit into your employment facility to the old fashion way of handing in a movie ticket for theatre access. It's the idea and process by which people are identified and granted certain access and in most cases privileges.

Furthermore, computerized access control systems can be security devices that monitor and control entry to a house, apartment, or building. Because keys are easily duplicated, these systems are the best way to keep track of who is entering the area.

When it comes to your business, access control can be designed to restrict access to your building complex in order to increase security and control. There are now access control systems that do away with keys all together and provide computerized trails of who and when someone enters your property.

Access control devices can range from simple electronic keypads that secure a single door to large networked security systems for multiple buildings that can include parking lot gates, integration with time and attendance systems, exit controls, telephone entry, and multiple other levels of security. If a business owner implements sophisticated access control, there should be no need to replace lost keys, track down keys from terminated employees, or wonder who has access to which areas.

If you are seriously considering applying electronic access control devices within your business then know that the local and state law likely will require certain standards which will cost you time and money.

Access control is also important when it comes to work computers and programs, as well as personal computers. Any computer that is networked to any outside source is vulnerable. That is why you can now guard computer and program access with passwords, fingerprint identification, and even more means such as voice recognition or even retinal scans.

Meanwhile, access control from a homeowner's point of view does not have to be costly and can help prevent unauthorized access onto your property and uphold safety once inside.

Such access control devices can be applied to locksets, entry and exit control, even TV and computer privileges.

One of the most common access control devices found in the residential area is an electronic entry gate. Even if you have fencing around your home, you should consider installing a security gate in which people must enter an access code in order to gain entry into your driveway and into your home.

If you are thinking about installing an access control gate for your driveway, then you should consider the width of the driveway and what car types will be driven through the area. In addition, the amount of money you spend on your access control gate will also be a big factor. The construction of the gate and features will make the difference. You will have to choose the material of the gate, whether that be wood or metal. You will also need to decide the motor size and how the gate will work – with a swing or by a set of wheels.

Now that you have a basic understanding of access control both for the business and the home, you should seek further guidance about what types of identification systems are available to you to achieve your desired goal.

Security Lights

DIY homeowners can quickly and easily install security lights for an increased sense of home security. In that regard, outdoor floodlights help keep your home lit during the hours of darkness. Most of these outdoor lights provide motion detection and will turn on automatically when something or someone moves within the vicinity of the exterior of your home. This means if an intruder is nearby, their movement will likely prompt a security light to turn on, which leaves the intruder vulnerable.

Security lights also provide an added sense of safety to the homeowner, who might get home late when it's dark. Your security lights will come on the second you walk up to your door, letting you see in the dark and getting you to your front door safely. Outdoor motion-activated security lights can also save you money. The lights only come on when there is movement, instead of having your porch light on all night long. Keep in mind, floodlights should be installed near each entry door, garage door, or any other easy access point around your home.

Overall, security lights are very cost effective and a great addition to any home security system. They flood the exterior of your home with light at the slightest detection of movement and will send a clear message to would-be-thieves that this house is protected.

Personal Protection

Personal protection is of the utmost importance these days. But all the police and firemen and EMS workers in the world can't be there to protect you 24/7. So taking charge of your own personal safety is the first step to keeping yourself out of danger.

Personal safety is about being alert and having a plan. If you know what to do and what not to do, you will be able to handle emergencies that threaten your personal safety. If nothing else, just follow your instincts when it comes to personal safety. If your gut is telling you something is wrong, your personal safety could be in danger. Listen to your gut. Be smart and be safe.

It is perfectly legal to carry many self defense weapons and defend yourself. You should however, check all of the laws in your state to make sure you know what you are dealing with. Some self defense items require a permit and you should be trained to operate them. There are many other means of self defense that do not require any licensing or special training.

Pepper spray has been popular and effective for many years and many people consider it one of the best self defense weapons. It is fairly easy to operate and dispense. It is also very easy to carry. You can carry it on your keychain, or in your purse and it will not be obtrusive but easy to access if you should ever need it.

The best self defense weapon is your knowledge and skills. You can protect yourself if you are ever in a compromising position. Instead of just sitting there thinking you will never be a victim, you should instead take responsibility for your own protection.

The best self defense weapons can come in many forms. Education and some basic training can keep you safe under any conditions. Self defense is the best way to defend yourself if you are caught in an uneasy situation.

Door Alarm

When accompanied with door alarms, exit alarms can be handy for a number of different things. There is a wide variety of alarms to choose from, and the design of the alarm can actually save your life as well. The most notable reason to get an exit alarm is to prevent intruders, but having an alarm above the door can save you during a fire as well.

How many alarms you need around your house or office is solely up to you. It is recommended that you purchase at least one for your front and back doors. But you have to consider the fact that many burglars are well aware of alarms in the front and back.

Because of this, side doors, basement doors and garage doors are all fair game as well. If you settle for the first alarm you see, you may end up paying far more than you need to. Take the time to research for the sake of your safety, your family's safety, and financial reasons as well. If you are at your home you can turn any door into an emergency exit, what I mean by that is that you can leave a door unlocked and with your emergency exit door alarm, it will go off when someone is entering the door that shouldn't be. This is great during the day when you are home alone and like to keep a screen door open or the front door open to let in a little light, or to cool down the house in the summertime.

If you own a business then the same situation applies to you as well. You need to leave doors unlocked during business hours so you put a emergency exit door alarm on all of your doors but the main one and an alarm goes off if someone enters or exits from these doors.

Also in the case of an emergency these doors will be unlocked and people will be able to get out of the emergency exit doors if they need to.

You can also get emergency exit door signs that say alarm will sound. I'm sure you have seen these.

Whether you want to protect your home or your business emergency exit door alarms are a good idea to not only warn you of danger so you can escape or call for help, but to protect your home or business as well.

Driveway Alarms

Did you know that there is a way for you to know when someone comes onto your property from your driveway? Many people don't realize this and this is one area of home security that many people forget about. You have to make sure your driveway and every other vulnerable area of your home is secure. The best way to protect your driveway is with driveway sensor alarms. There are many different types of driveway alarms available that you have to research them in order to find the one that will work the best for your security needs.

Driveway sensor alarms can definitely protect your driveway but they can also help protect other things around your home. In the news story they give examples of other ways that driveway alarms can help with security at home. They state, "Sensor alarms can also be employed to warn you when your child goes near your pool, or an intruder enters your garage, tool shed, garden shed or summerhouse. Alarms can be positioned to alert you if someone tampers with, or approaches your parked motor home or boat."

So, as you can see, driveway sensor alarms are a definite home security advantage that everyone needs to have for their homes. With so many different choices available, you have to research them first before you choose the one that will be the most effective for your driveway security. Don't just get the first one that you find because most likely this will not be the best one to protect your home.

Wireless driveway alarms are probably the most practical and easiest to install. However when choosing an alarm, it is essential that you choose one with a sensor that has a long range. This is good because then you can set the sensor as far away as you like while still being able to pick up potential intruders. Some sensors can reach as far as a few miles away.

Burglar Deterrent

There are many burglar deterrents that a homeowner can take advantage of and in today's society doing so is practically a necessity. From a home alarm system to a fake TV device, burglar deterrents can range in price. But no matter the cost or type, the main purpose of a burglar deterrent is to prevent theft from happening to you - and that's a wise investment.

First, let's take a look at home alarm systems. There are wireless and wired alarm systems.

Typically a home alarm kit will include a control panel, alarm/siren, window and door sensors, plus at least one motion detector. Depending on the type of home alarm system, the price can range from just under a \$100 to hundreds of dollars. In recent years, technology of such systems has allowed for lower prices. In addition, some home alarm systems can incorporate home automation, smoke detectors, freeze alerts, and glass break detectors.

Second, you can protect the perimeter of your home with a driveway alarm or an automatic driveway gate. An automatic driveway gate is a form of access control which allows only those with a user code to pass through and gain entry. While an automatic driveway gate can be pricey, a driveway alarm can be very economical. Driveway alarms can range in price from around \$60 to \$250. Most driveway alarms consist of a wireless sensor/transmitter and a receiver. The sensor is designed to detect vehicles or people passing by and will send a signal to the receiver unit which will then beep or announce that someone or something is coming near. You can use a driveway alarm not only for your driveway, but for business entrances, garages, barns, and other areas.

Third, incorporating some type of a surveillance system into your home security outfit does not have to be outrageously priced. Sure, there are multi camera systems with monitors and DVRs that can cost thousands of dollars, but there are also video intercom systems and single camera surveillance systems to work with. Such devices can be installed at or near one of the more vulnerable areas in or around your home.

Other burglar deterrents include window security bars and window security film. Window bars can offer a physical and visual deterrent to burglary by making it hard for a thief to enter through a window or by intimidating him all together. However, window bars, as you can imagine, are often ugly to look at and at times can pose a fire escape risk. On the other hand, window security films are hard to detect and should not prevent one from opening up a window to escape. Such window films are designed to hold glass in place upon impact from intruders, as well as from storms or earthquakes.

Other burglar deterrent devices worth looking into are fake TVs, dummy cameras, and of course, deadbolt door locks. (For best protection, you should use deadbolt door locks on all doors leading to an outside area.) Burglar deterrents should serve as road blocks for a would-be burglar. That's because burglars are looking for an easy and quick hit. They won't want to work hard for their money by out-thinking the roadblocks that you place before them.

Security Cameras

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how much is video worth? At Home Security Store, we believe video is worth much more, especially when it comes to identifying a thief. If you are thinking about a way to protect your property, installing a security camera system is a great start. Not only does the mere appearance of surveillance deter crime, but if a break-in actually does happen, the recorded footage could be crucial in finding the culprit. Furthermore, if you install security cameras in a place of business, this will likely improve worker productivity and lower the chances of employee theft.

Home Security Store has many different types of home and business security cameras to choose from, which are sold both in kit form and individually. Wireless security cameras have become increasingly popular in recent years. That's why we have a wide selection of wireless cameras from such brands as Lorex and SVAT as well. Plus, we have bullet, dome, IP, spy, and of course fake cameras.

Where Should I Install my Security Camera?

Choosing the appropriate location to install a security camera is vital to successfully stopping intrusion. To do this, the homeowner should first assess his or her property to determine what type of camera is required. Standard concerns include: entrances, exits, people who regularly visit, and the time of day and night visitors and family members come to the home. A homeowner should also think about whether they want their cameras to be hidden or on display.

With a security camera system, you can monitor your nanny when you are away, keep an eye on your kids from another part of the house, and perhaps peak in on your business both inside and outside once you have left for the day.

Video Recorders

There are two main video recorders which are used within home security. There are DVRs (digital video recorders) and VCRs (video cassette recorders). These video recorders are available in different models, shapes, and even sizes. For example, a DVR can be so small that it can even fit within a Spy Pen! A DVR can be portable and of course hidden. The DVR is the more popular and innovative product over the dwindling VCR. This growth in the DVR market has allowed retailers to offer more competitively priced DVRs with better features that were once only available for commercial use and at a very high price.

DVRs used for security purposes are the same in concept as household ones used to record TV programs. However, security DVRs are capable of storing many more hours of footage, record multiple channels, and produce other helpful features in the recording, organizing, and playback of video.

Some more benefits of the DVR include no more tapes to mess with, expandable hard drives, possible remote internet access, password protected features, and motion sensing.

When you are choosing a DVR, make sure it is compatible with your cameras and that you have enough channels to support the number of cameras that you would like to operate. Video recorders can be set to record continuously or by a schedule and in some cases upon motion detection. Remember, recording video is very important when it comes to catching a thief. That's because video can be used as evidence that helps police identify and find the culprit.

Camera Systems

If you listen to any news station you hear it all the time, crime rates are growing at an alarming rate. It is imperative in this day and age to take a proactive approach to home security. Home security camera systems may be just what you need to take your security to the next level.

If you became a target for a home invasion do you have the necessary security equipment to deter this type of crime? If not it might be time to start considering some basic security equipment that can give you the protection you may need if the unexpected should happen to you. A home security surveillance system can protect your property in case an intruder picks your house to burglarize. Security camera system is a great first defense in keeping your residence safe.

Home security surveillance can be a relatively inexpensive way to protect your belongings. There are many types of cameras that can be easily installed.

If you want surveillance camera that sees moving objects in the dark you will need an infra-red camera (IR camera). This technology uses special lights around the camera lens that make the area look as if a bright light is shining in the area being monitored. This is the same technology that law enforcement agencies use. Now this technology is available to home owners who want to secure themselves.

Surveillance cameras are becoming more popular and more available to home owners. Businesses are not the only ones that can afford the technology and benefits of security cameras. Surveillance cameras systems can be as simple or as elaborate depending on your needs.

CCTV Security Camera Monitors

Home Security Store has several choices when it comes to CCTV security camera monitors for the customer who seeks high-end performance. These CCTV monitors can't be found at your local electronics store. That is because the LCD monitors not only have great display ability, but are designed to accept CCTV video signals such as Composite, RCA, or BNC connections which some high-end surveillance equipment requires. (On the other hand, there are the less expensive and more readily available VGA monitors that can be utilized with some surveillance equipment, plus there are BNC/VGA video converters as well.)

CCTV monitors are ideal for office, home, and other business applications. The monitors are suited to display the best possible picture with crisp, highly detailed images produced from your security cameras.

Here are some things to consider when selecting a CCTV monitor. What is the monitor resolution? What about the contrast, brightness, and viewing angle? Are there quality built-in speakers? What cables are required and do they come as part of the package? And, is there a remote?

Most of Home Security Store's CCTV monitors are manufactured by ViewEra. ViewEra specializes in making flat panel displays and high-tech LCD products. They are based in California with manufacturing plants in both Taiwan and China.

Remember, if you decide to mount your CCTV monitor on the wall, be sure that the mounting bracket you choose can hold the weight of the monitor. You would not want to see your lovely new CCTV LCD monitor that you paid a couple of hundred dollars for fall and break!

Surveillance Camera Accessories

Home Security Store has many surveillance accessories to choose from. Accessories housed in our warehouses include camera cables & brackets, CCTV warning signs, connectors & adapters, DVR lock boxes & brackets, monitor brackets & accessories, and tools.

Although many surveillance kits come with accessories it will likely be necessary to make additional purchases. That's because installing a surveillance system will take special tools and equipment and if you don't already have these items in advance you will need to get them before you can complete installation.

One of the most time consuming steps of setting up and installing your security system will be dealing with the wire and cables. That's why you should first make sure that you buy the right cables and next, make sure that you have the proper tools to cut cable and tuck it away. Such tools include a wire stripper and staple gun.

You will also need to make sure that you have the right connectors and adapters for your security system, plus brackets if necessary. This is why making a list of needed accessories would be helpful, along with a sketch of how you would like your surveillance outfit to be. And finally, you don't want to forget about CCTV warning signs and decals. After all, you have already spent hundreds of dollars on a new security system, you might as well brag about it. By posting signs you will be announcing to intruders to stay away, you are being taped right now, and if you come any further the evidence will really pile up.

Camera Power Supplies

Powering your surveillance cameras can turn out to be complex or perhaps very simple. With one scenario (which is the low-budget and less confusing one), you will power each of your cameras with a transformer that plugs into a power strip. That is one way. The other way consists of utilizing a power supply box where all the cameras can be centrally wired for power. Like we said, it could turn out to be complex, but it doesn't have to be! In fact, this scenario may turn out to be the more organized way to operate.

Let's say you have decided to go the route of the power supply box, then of course there is information you should be made aware of before making a selection. For instance, you should know how much power it will provide, for example -12 volts of DC power. Plus, for each camera you would like to set-up, you will need a fused protective output. This means if you have 8 cameras, then you will need at least 8 fused protected outputs.

You should also know what protective function the camera power supply features such as over-current protection, output short circuit protection, and over voltage protection. The box that encases the power supply should be metal and durable, plus there should be an on/off switch and LED lights to go with each fuse.

Other products that you might need in building and powering your CCTV system include AC to DC adapters and switching power adapters.

Door Chimes

A door chime serves as an audible warning that someone is near or has entered your home through a door. Home Security Store has several different door chimes and accessories, plus a couple of driveway alarms and enunciators which can be used as door chimes.

If you opt not to have or can't afford a complete home alarm system, a door chime can be an alternative solution – however, it is not a replacement. Furthermore, if you already do have an alarm system in place a door chime can be that extra layer of home protection that you need. Door chimes can integrate a motion detector that operates with infrared technology, therefore guests or intruders will not know that they are about to be tracked. On the other hand, door chimes can be operate intentionally by a guest with the push of a button.

Door chimes can be hooked up to work with your existing doorbell system as well. With the push of a button, or with the trip of a sensor, the entire household can hear that someone is at the front door. Whichever door chime system you opt for you can set up your receiver or speaker near or in the backyard, so you can even hear the entrance of your guest (or intruder) as you plant your garden or take a dip in the pool. A door chime will give you the extra time you need to greet your guest, or in more dire circumstances, that extra time you need to get out, hit the alarm panic button, defend yourself, or call the police.

Audio Speakers

Here at Home Security Store, we know that sound matters. That is why we have handpicked some of the best speakers on the market today. We did this because nothing makes music or a movie more enjoyable than an awesome pair of speakers or better yet, a complete audio package.

How Does It Work?

Chances are if you are a security buff, you are an electronics buff as well - so let us review what some may already know.

Audio speakers convert electrical signals to sound and use a wide range of frequencies to do it. Neat, isn't it? To produce different frequency ranges, individual drivers are used. The drivers are: subwoofers (very low frequencies), woofers (low frequencies), mid-range speakers (middle frequencies), tweeters (high frequencies), and sometimes super-tweeters which are optimized for the highest audible frequencies.

Speakers that are used within a stereo or with a radio/tuner or CD player are typically sold in pairs. However, when it comes to a home theatre it is often a surround sound system which is sold. That kind of system divides up the drivers and usually includes five satellite speakers and a subwoofer.

Keep in mind some speakers are designed to withstand exposure to outside elements as well, making it easy for you to enjoy great sound on your patio or backyard as you move from deck to pool to yard.

Remember, with a pair of speakers from Home Security Store, you are bound to have a house-rocking experience both indoors and out.

Garage Door Controls

Now that you have installed a garage door opener or you are maintaining an old one, it's time to improve what you've got. That's where updated garage door controls and accessories come in. Homeowners should consider these products for both convenience and safety.

There are many transmitters and receivers to choose from and many things to consider as well. If you are looking at purchasing a keypad transmitter you should ask - how many codes can it hold, is it easy to operate and install, plus (if it is wire-free) what type of batteries does it take to operate?

In addition, whether it is a keypad, remote control, or receiver you should know if there is a manufacturer warranty and know what garage door openers the product is compatible with.

Also consider that there are many garage door control devices outside the main transmitters and receivers that can help keep you and your family safe. Take for example a garage door monitor which can alert you anywhere inside your home when your garage door is open. There is also the automatic garage door closer which automatically closes the garage once you have left the building! Plus, don't forget about laser garage parking assist devices or clicker products which can replace lost or broken devices.

Take a look at the products Home Security Store has hand-picked for you and consider improving your garage security today. Remember, an unintentional opening of your garage door could increase the likelihood of an intruder gaining access into your home. On the other hand, the ability to monitor and control your garage door from a remote location can clearly improve your safety.

Gate Controls

Installing a gate and gate control at the driveway or entryway of your home or business can not only increase the security of your property, but the value as well. That is why a gate control unit is a wise investment.

Because gate controls can be costly, you should take your time on comparing different brands and features. In addition, you should feel confident that you can put the system together yourself.

Typically, do-it-yourself gate control kits include a keypad, gate control, and in some cases, an exit button or exit detector. Accessories may include remote controls. Other more hi-tech gate controls can incorporate sliding entry cards, intercoms, or video monitor and audio communication equipment where the homeowner or property manager can see and speak with the visitor to decide whether or not to grant him access.

When buying a gate control you should know the range of which it can work, the different access modes offered, how many entry codes the system will hold, what type of batteries you will need and how long each should last, the security of the actual gate signal, and (for more basic systems) if there is an interior buzzer that you can place inside the home so you will be informed if a visitor has gained access.

Intercoms

Intercoms can offer fun, convenience, and more importantly - better home security for you and your family. There are wired, wireless, and video intercom systems. Plus, some intercom systems can incorporate sound systems so you can hear the radio or music throughout the house.

Intercoms can have many functions, including serving as a baby monitor. With most systems all you have to do is place a unit in the baby's room and one in yours (or in your hand to carry with you), then place the system in monitor mode and you are ready to go. If a noise is made, you hear it instantly. In other cases you can utilize an intercom system while you are in the backyard and the kids are inside. There will be no more yelling when you want to communicate.

Typical intercom systems today should work with digitally secure radio links, are weatherproof, and can work up to 1000 feet away. Most Do-It-Yourself intercoms are wireless and extremely easy to set-up. All you do is add the batteries, program, and presto - start talking.

A video intercom system is also a great device to use at your entryway, alongside a sturdy door. If you have an uneasy feeling when you or your children have to open the door to a stranger then a video door phone is for you. You can see who is at the door before you open it and you can even communicate with them without having to open up the door at all.

Structured Wiring

Behind and inside the walls of your home breathe a world of opportunity and if suited correctly, with structured wiring, it can bring your house to life.

What is it?

Structured wiring is a generic term used to describe the method of providing communication infrastructure for your home. The structured approach is to run a full bundle of wire from a central distribution box to every significant room throughout the house. The bundle of wire consists of different types that distribute a variety of data signals to such technology as cable television, telephones, and Ethernet computer networks.

Wiring Options

The wires included in a structured wiring bundle vary by manufacturer, but usually consist of at least two coaxial cables of RG-6 quality (for video) and two twisted pair cables of Category 5 (Cat-5) or higher quality (for voice and data). Other options include fiber optic cable, but many think the installation of such cable is more difficult and expensive.

Central Distribution

It's been said that the mechanics of the central distribution box or panel are a lot like the initial telephone switchboards of the past. You simply connect the service desired (such as your telephone or computer network) to the room of the house where it is needed and presto, you have technology at the palm of your hand. Structured wiring systems have become increasingly popular to meet the demands of today's tech savvy consumer. That's because intelligent structured wiring systems can provide seamless, integrated control of cable and satellite TV, audio and video, the Internet, telephone, lighting, and you guessed it - security.

X10 & Lighting Control

One convenient and safe way to keep your home well lit is through home automation. That's where X10 and lighting control comes in. With X10 and other similar devices you can control your lamps with the press of a button or even keep them on a timed schedule. And what's even better - X10 is affordable and efficient.

What is X10?

X10 is a communications language that allows compatible products to "talk" to each other by using existing electrical wiring in the home. Because X10 products can connect over existing wires, there is no costly and complicated rewiring required. Installation is said to be simple - a transmitter plugs (or wires) in at one location in the home and sends its control signal (on, off, dim, bright, etc.) to a receiver which plugs (or wires) into another location in the home.

In the mid 1970's, X10 originated from an engineering company in Scotland that later became a part of X10 Ltd. X10 is regarded as the de facto standard in home automation and although a number of higher bandwidth alternatives exist including KNX, INSTEON, BACnet, and LonWorks, X10 remains popular in the home environment with 30 million units in use in American homes.

Remember, security lighting is a very simple and effective way to deter crime, making it seem as if someone is home, awake, and alert. Furthermore, (according to the California Crime Prevention Officers' Association) burglars bypass well lit homes in favor of darker ones, which they regard as more accessible.

Alarm Tools

The Need for Alarm Tools

When you're ready to install your home alarm system, you just can't do it with your hands alone. Just like Barack Obama needs a tele-prompter, you too need the proper tools to succeed. That's why as you make out your home security system wish list you should not forget to list out the required tools.

There are some tools which are a necessity and some luxury tools that you can opt to buy which professional installers would use. First, you will need wire cutters. At the very basic these wire cutters should be able to strip six standard wire sizes without nicking a wire. These wire cutters will be used to strip the wires that connect from the control panel

to the sensors and motion detectors, plus from the control panel to the transformer, and so forth. If the job calls for it, you can opt for multi-conductor cable cutters that cut both wire and coaxial cable. If you will encounter hard to reach areas you will need a ladder as well.

You will also need a wire and cable staple gun. Such a stapler will shoot insulated staples which you will also need to buy. Of course a stapler is needed so you can staple down the wire to the wall and to the wire outline that you have designed. In doing this, you will also likely need electrical tape.

You will need a couple of screwdrivers with multiple heads as well. This is for unscrewing and screwing sensors, motion detectors, and the control panel battery holders to name a few uses. You will also be better prepared if you have a drill and drill bit. It might also be a good idea, depending on the work load, to wear protective goggles and gloves.

Other optional tools that professionals use to install home alarm systems are wire pullers, fish tape, test sets, and a tone generator and tracer to identify wires. You should know going into any DIY project you will need the proper tools to complete your mission, plus the tools that you might need to troubleshoot with.

Alarm Wire What You Need to Know

There are many components to an alarm system and one such component is wire. Even if you have a wireless system, wire can still play a part in getting the job done. (For example, you could choose to use a transformer with wire that attaches to your control panel.) But for the sake of this discussion, let's talk about DIY wired alarm systems.

When you are picking out your wire it will likely be more convenient to buy wire packages that are rolled and wrapped tightly within plastic. This makes it convenient so that you can store, carry, open, and roll out the wire as needed. A label should also be on the package indicating how many conductors (wires) there are and the gauge.

Typically a sheath covers 2 or 4 wires which are then stripped during installation. It is important to note that door and window sensors require two wires, while motion detectors require 4 wires (2 for power and 2 for circuit).

You should also consider the gauge of the wire. The gauge of the wire is the thickness of it. The higher the number of the gauge the smaller the wire will be. Typically for sensors you will use 22 gauge wire (though some transformers and sirens may call for 18 gauge wire).

Okay, now it's almost time to buy your wire, but what you must know first is how much to buy. To do this, measure the distance along the wall (or under the carpet) from the areas you would like to protect to where the control panel is positioned. The total distance is the minimum requirement of how long you will need your wire to be.

There are many needs for wire and many devices that cannot work without wires from keypads to smoke detectors. Plus, don't forget about wire accessories which will help in your DIY endeavors such as wire connectors and harnesses. Good Luck!

Audio Video Cable

Audio and video cables play a major part in the professional set-up of your home entertainment center. Especially, considering the quality of your sound and picture are only as good as the quality of your cable. In short, you will only get the best possible output from your new HD TV flat screen if your receiver and DVD to TV connection is HD secure as well.

Home Security store has a selection of high-standard audio and video cables for your A/V application requirements that are 1080p, 1080i, 720p, 480p, and 480i supported. These cables are HDMI Male to HDMI Male. HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface) is a compact audio/video interface for transmitting uncompressed digital data between audio and video sources and digital HD display devices. The cables are designed for the ultimate high-definition experience

If you need just a few extra feet to connect your HDMI components and connectors then a 6 foot cable will do. However, if you are in need of greater flexibility then a longer cable will be the answer in your home set-up. That's why 15 and 30 feet cables are also available at Home Security Store.

In addition, Home Security Store has audio wire for your [home speakers](#) or surround sound system needs. If you are building a house and need wire to connect your home speaker system, the UL listed 209-2315 - 16/2 Speaker Wire 500 ft Box is ideal. Each red and blue wire within the jacket has 65 strands for signal flexibility and fast connection.

Fire Wire

Smoke detectors (or alarms) can be wired or wireless. If the detector is battery powered it is "wireless" and is a standalone unit. But if you have an AC-powered smoke detector in your home it is then "wired" and is likely also wired together or integrated with other smoke detectors. This sort of wiring ensures that if one smoke detector goes off, they all go off.

Furthermore, if you have a home alarm system in place, the smoke detectors are wired for communication to it which allows your alarm system to call for help in the case that the smoke alarm is triggered. All this is why the wiring of

your smoke detector units is so important and choosing one, like all of your home security choices, should be well thought out.

The way a smoke detector is wired is very simple. Likewise, choosing your wire should be simple. Just like alarm wires, a label should be on the fire wire package (or box) indicating how many conductors (wires) there are and the gauge. For fire wires, typically a sheath covers 2 to 4 wires which are then stripped for installation. The gauge of the wire is the thickness of it. The higher the number of the gauge, the smaller the wire will be.

Fire wires are rated to accept a certain number of volts, for example 120 or 300 volts AC. Fire Wire, like most professional use wire and cable, is also rated by the Underwriters Laboratories® (UL Mark) using more than 30 standards including safety, performance, and quality assurance.

Network Tools

Before you attempt to do any kind of network wiring, you should first do your research. If you do you will learn that for safe and effective cabling, you need safe and effective tools. That's why Home Security Store has a selection of network tools designed not only for Do-It-Yourselfers, but for cable installers, network administrators, consultants, and technicians.

Networking cable involves Cat 5 wire, therefore you will want a Cat 5 tester, but that's not all you will want. On the tool list should be the tools and accessories needed to first prepare your Cat 5 wire. Those tools and accessories include a pair of cable strippers, electrician scissors, a load bar, a connector, and a crimper.

When lining the wire over a stretch of area you will want to use insulated staples. Each staple has a plastic insulator that encloses the metal legs of the staple and keeps the metal from cutting or pinching the wire. And of course to enforce the insulated staples you will need a special staple gun, like the Arrow T59 which is ideal for Cat5, Cat6, optical fiber, and video (RG59, RG6) wiring.

Installation is not complete without the proper testing. That's where, as previously mentioned, a Cat 5 tester comes in (used for identifying faults and clear wire-mapping). Other tools recommended include a tone tracer and tone generator (used to find the right signal path for data and voice installations). Plus, a telephone tester is recommended as well. You can buy these network tools separately or you can buy them in all-in-one kits.

Network Wire

Category 5 (Cat 5) Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP) wire/cable is a new standard of wiring that can be used for standard data networking, phone systems, or video transmission. This means Cat 5 can network computers and appliances plus takes care of telephone needs all in one.

A Cat 5 cable has 4 pairs of wires within one cable jacket. The coloring of the wires is standardized. You will find a solid blue, green, orange, and brown wire. Twisted around each of these wire is a white wire. The use of these balanced lines helps keep intact a high signal-to-noise ratio despite interference from both external sources and other pairs.

At Home Security Store, the wire comes in box packaging which allows the wire to be easily pulled long distances without having to deal with tangled wire.

When preparing your Cat 5 wire (if you are not a professional) you should seek some guidance in how to do it and what tools you will need. An overview of the process is to measure and cut the length of cable that you will need. Then skin the cable with a cable stripper. After that, you will cut the wires with a pair of electrician scissors. Then install the load-bar by inserting the wires one at a time. And finally, insert the connector onto the load bar assembly and then crimp the wire.

It's also a good idea to have Cat 5 testing equipment to see if your wire is working properly. Home Security Store has a section on that as well.

Surveillance Tools

Installing a surveillance camera system will take special tools and equipment. For example, when mounting the cameras to your ceilings and walls you will likely need a power drill and mounting equipment such as screws, bolts, and brackets. But that's not all that should be on your tool list. You will need special tools when handling and lining your wire as well.

Since wiring is the most time consuming (and the most important) part of surveillance installation, the proper handling of wire and cable should be planned and well thought out. You will of course want to do this prior to installation. You should do all this because the quality of your video signal will make all the difference.

When lining the wire you will want to use insulated staples which reduce pressure on the wire. Each staple has a plastic insulator that encloses the metal legs of the staple and keeps the metal from cutting or pinching the wire. The staples are usually sold in bulk quantity.

To enforce the insulated staple you will need a special staple gun. The T59 staple gun from Arrow is ideal and is great for Cat5, Cat6, optical fiber, and video (RG59, RG6) wiring. The process of stapling the wire is vital for any work where it is important not to deform or compress insulation.

If you don't already have these tools on hand you will need to buy the tools in advance. Plus don't forget about the more obvious equipment, like a ladder or measuring tape.

Install your Surveillance Camera system like a pro with your own quality tools. Find exactly what you want today.

Camera Wire and Cable

Now that you have picked out your security cameras for surveillance use, it is time to pick out your cable and cable lengths. This is an extremely important step since the quality of your cables will play a part in the quality and recording of your CCTV image.

To review, a wired surveillance system does not work without CCTV cables. That's because the cables allow you to connect your cameras to your VCR, DVR, or PC based recorder.

When it comes to cable selection, you can choose between pre-made professional CCTV power and video cables or bulk style cables. The pre-made cable makes for easier installation because the ends are already formed with BNC and power plug connectors on both ends, while the bulky style cable comes in spools that have to be cut to fit and then suited with the appropriate connectors.

What is a BNC Connector? A BNC (Bayonet Neill-Concelman) connector is a weather-proof twist lock coax connector. With a simple twist, the BNC locks into place and provides the most secure way for connecting components and coax cables together.

Remember, before you make a cable purchase, you should measure the length from each desired camera placement area to your CCTV recording device or control station. This is how much cable you should buy. Cable lengths for consumers are typically between 25 and 500 feet long.

Keep in mind that there are a few surveillance cameras that simply require RCA connectors which are commonly used for connecting home theatre components together. You can easily identify an RCA type connector as it is usually color-coded: Yellow (video), Red (audio left) and White (audio right). In addition, there should be a power cord coming from the camera or it should operate off battery.

Access Control Power Supplies

Home Security Store has a range of power supplies and components designed for access control, surveillance, and home alarms. Let's take a look at access control and access control power supplies.

Access control systems have gone beyond simple push button keyless locks. Now there are access control cards and card readers. The way a system can work is to use readable cards that allow cardholders to unlock a door or gate by swiping or presenting their card in some way to a reading device. But what happens when a proper access card is presented (or the right code is punched in)? That is where heavy duty locks, controllers, and power supplies come in.

An [access control](#) system can work with an electric strike or magnetic lock. This means when a card with the correct access information is presented to the reader, the controller sends a signal to the locking device which in turn unlocks the door. Electric strikes and magnetic locks can be either fail safe or fail secure. Fail safe locks open during a power failure, while fail secure locks lock during a power failure. Typically, an electric strike easily converts from fail safe to fail secure mode, while magnetic locks are always fail safe.

In addition, when building your system and selecting your locks, you will want to know what poundage you need or want. Perhaps you want 600 pounds of tamper strength (meaning over 600 pounds of force is needed to force the lock open) or maybe you will want 1200 pounds. You will also need to know how much power your system needs to operate.

However, as previously mentioned, the system does not work without the controller or the power supply.

Here are some questions to ask when making your selections. How many doors can the access controller control? Is the controller installation ready within a metal enclosure? Does your access control power supply purchase include a transformer, power supply/charger, timer module, or a control board? And finally - Is it UL listed? Is there a tamper switch? And what is the power conversion?

Alarm Power Supply and Security System Transformers

A home alarm system cannot work without a power supply. It is what gives the system juice. An alarm power supply is basically a source of electrical power that supplies the energy that an alarm system needs to operate and to protect your home. Some alarm systems are powered by the home's electrical power supply with a Transformer, some by batteries, and yet some by a combination of both.

[Wireless alarm systems](#) require no cabling or electrical connection. That's because all of the components of a wireless system (such as transmitters and motion detectors) run off batteries. Although you can opt to use a transformer which connects to an electrical outlet to power your control panel which typically houses your keypad and siren. On the other hand, all components of a hardwire alarm system (such as sensors, [motion detectors](#), keypads, siren, and strobe) are connected directly to the master control panel via wires and all rely on switching circuits to operate. That's where the circuit board (CPU) comes in. In turn, all the components are then juiced from one main power supply and that is the home's electricity.

A hardwired [alarm system](#) is more tedious to install, but it does take away the need to check or recharge batteries for each component. However, when using a hardwire system it's a good idea to have a back-up battery hooked up and housed within your master control panel that can kick in if the power fails. You might want to also use a rechargeable battery for that which will lower your maintenance costs.

Surge Protectors

There are many power strips on the market today that do not provide surge protection, yet that is exactly what you might think you are getting. That's why it is very important that you have knowledge on your side and that you opt to protect your electronics against voltage spikes caused by power outages or lightning strikes by using (at the very least) surge protectors.

Furthermore, when it comes to CCTV equipment you should look for more layers of protection than what a typical surge protector can provide. That's where Uninterruptable Power Supply (UPS) units come in.

A continuous UPS is designed to convert AC power to DC power and store it on a battery. The UPS then converts the battery's DC power back to AC power and runs it to the AC outlets for your electronics. If the power goes out, your electronics should continue to run off the stored battery power for a limited amount of time. That time depends on the design and the number of cameras, DVRs, monitors, and/or computers you have running.

When choosing a surge protector or UPS unit you should know what each device has been designed to protect. For example, there are some devices which are designed for use with a plasma TV or personal computer and not for use with CCTV equipment.

When buying a UPS unit you should know how many surge protectors there are, how many watts of output it provides, and if the UPS unit is voltage compatible with the equipment you want to protect.

Remember, the primary role of surge protectors and UPS units are to protect the expensive equipment that you have already purchased. Don't overlook such a step and be smart about your choices.

Surveillance Power Supplies

Powering your surveillance cameras can turn out to be complex or perhaps very simple. With one scenario (which is the low-budget and less confusing one), you will power each of your cameras with a transformer that plugs into a power strip. That is one way. The other way consists of utilizing a power supply box where all the cameras can be centrally wired for power. Like we said, it could turn out to be complex, but it doesn't have to be! In fact, this scenario may turn out to be the more organized way to operate.

Let's say you have decided to go the route of the power supply box, then of course there is information you should be made aware of before making a selection. For instance, you should know how much power it will provide, for example -12 volts of DC power. Plus, for each camera you would like to set-up, you will need a fused protective output. This means if you have 8 cameras, then you will need at least 8 fused protected outputs.

You should also know what protective function the camera power supply features such as over-current protection, output short circuit protection, and over voltage protection. The box that encases the power supply should be metal and durable, plus there should be an on/off switch and LED lights to go with each fuse.

Other products that you might need in building and powering your CCTV system include AC to DC adapters and switching power adapters.

UPS Power Supplies

Unfortunately, no electrical power supply is free from brown-outs or some other form of interference. This means all electronic and computer based equipment is therefore vulnerable to outages or voltage drops. That is why your home or business [Security Camera System](#) and DVR, [Alarm Systems](#), computer system, or other electronic device can benefit from the use of an uninterruptible power supply (UPS).

A UPS is also sometimes simply referred to as a battery back-up. It provides emergency power to your electronic equipment. However, a UPS should provide "uninterrupted" power for a period of time, usually between 5 and 15 minutes. This hopefully will allow for enough time for power to be restored, or an auxiliary power supply to kick in, or for the equipment to safely shut down.

The amount of time a UPS can keep running after the power goes out depends on how big a UPS is in place and how much equipment it is protecting. Please note that if it is important that your equipment survive for several hours without power then it is recommended that you look at other solutions such as using a generator.

It is also important to know that some electronic manufacturers will recommend, or at times even require, the use of a UPS as part of their warranty requirements. A UPS unit will help ensure that data is not lost and it will allow for safe protection for the operation of your electronic equipment. This is a safety net you should not be without.