

Low Cost Home Security Options

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Topics

- No Cost Considerations
- Systems with 24/7 Monitoring Service
- Cameras
- Motion Sensors
- References & Product Links

General Considerations

- Peace of Mind (whether at home or away)
- Budget (what make sense)
- Technology (where is your comfort level)

The Real Deals

- Neighborhood Watch - Community Police Partnership
 - Great way to get connected and keep neighborhoods safe
 - Trains you to recognize and report suspicious activity
- Nextdoor - Private social network for your neighborhood
- CCPD Home Security Survey - Learn from the experts
- National Night Out - Strengthens the bond

(Sometimes the best things only require a little effort)

Monitored Home Security

- 24/7
- Wireless sensors for door, window and motion
- Cellular link
- Key chain remote
- Battery backup

A monitored security system can reduce the chances of a home invasion but if a break-in does occur, the service helps to ensure for a prompt response

Monitored Home Security

Companies surveyed:

- ADT
- XFINITY™ Home
- SimpliSafe

Basic home needs:

- Six door/window sensors (NOTE: 80% of all break-ins occur through locked doors)
- One motion sensor (trap zone for large areas)

ADT

- Free equipment and activation
- \$100 installation fee
- Three-year commitment @ \$45/month
- Life-time warranty and maintenance (active customer)
- Cameras, light and climate control (home automation) packages available at additional cost

XFINITY™ Home

- Requires Comcast basic internet service @ \$20/month
- \$200 installation fee
- \$250 in equipment add-ons to meet basic home needs
- Three-year commitment @ \$30/month
- Cameras, light and climate control (home automation) packages available at additional cost

SimpliSafe

- A la carte, contract-free alternative
- \$390 in equipment to meet basic home needs
- Homeowner installation (mostly wireless components)
- \$15/month for 24/7 monitoring
- Integrated cameras and home automation not available

Cost Comparison Table

Company	Installation	Equipment	Service (3 years)	Total
ADT	\$100	N/C	\$1,620	\$1,720
XFINITY™ Home	\$200	\$250	\$1,080	\$1,530 *
SimpliSafe	N/C	\$390	\$540	\$930

Cost range of \$0.85 - \$1.58 per day

* Total does not include internet service

Cameras

General considerations:

- Cameras do not protect as well as a security system
- Video cannot be centrally monitored by security companies due to privacy laws
- Can help to keep an eye on your children and pets
- Weather cam for Tropical Storm Isaac



Cameras (Internet-Ready)

- Wireless connectivity to existing router (bypass PC)
- Remote viewing from smart phone or web browser
- Motion and audio triggered recording to web or networked PC
- Automated email notification of triggered events
- Infrared LEDs for night vision
- Zoom/pan/tilt capabilities
- Price range \$90 - \$190

Cameras (Wireless Kits)

- Wireless connectivity to base station (included)
- Base station connects to TV for local viewing
- Motion triggered recording to base station memory card (certain models only)
- Infrared LEDs for night vision
- Base station can support more than one camera
- Price range \$100 & up
- Higher end models offer remote viewing via Skype, but require physical connection between base station and PC

The \$10 Camera Solution

- USB webcam connected to PC using Skype in auto-answer mode (assuming you have mobile device with Skype)
- Most webcams have built-in microphone for live audio feed

Alternate considerations (possible technology overload):

- Secure web broadcasting software instead of Skype
- Enable Wake-on-LAN to remotely turn PC on and off
- Remote desktop software to view video and control PC
- Purchased software can offer motion/audio detection, text notifications, multiple video sources and DVR capabilities

Motion Sensor

- Like a camera, only makes you aware of an issue and does not protect as well as a security system
- Wireless connectivity to base station (included)
- Base station can support more than one sensor
- Other sensors include door/window, garage door & water
- Price range \$50 - \$150
- Extended wireless range model available for extra cost

Be Wise

Always be certain to review the following before making a purchase or contractual commitment:

- ✓ Product literature
- ✓ Customer reviews
- ✓ Return policy/money back guarantee
- ✓ Cancellation policy

And keep in mind, technology is not perfect and there may be service disruptions and even false triggers. Just like smoke alarms, test your system frequently and replace batteries on a set schedule to ensure optimal performance.

References & Product Links

Click text to launch website:

- [SimpliSafe](#)
- [2012 Compare Best Home Security Monitoring](#)
- [2012 Best Wireless Camera Comparisons and Reviews](#)
- [Lorex Wireless Surveillance System](#)
- [Skylink Wireless Home Alert System](#)

Thanks for all your efforts!

