

SECURITY CAMERAS FOR PENINSULA RESIDENTS

With recent car break ins, more than 20 in total reported, homeowners are looking for solutions. Moreover, if we employ security interventions collectively, we are more secure as a community. We hope that this communication from the Peninsula Tech Committee is helpful.

There are two general approaches to take: (1) wireless security cameras and (2) doorbell options. Doorbells are the simplest, easiest to use and install and for the most part the least expensive. Cameras are also a great way to keep an eye on your home and spot potential trouble. Features for cameras that we recommend are night vision, high-definition video [minimum 2K – prefer 4K], voice control via digital assistants like Alexa, two-way audio, smart phone alerts and battery operated or wired.

Below we have put together several camera and doorbell options, from high end to low end and their Amazon ratings. To begin, you should identify WHY YOU WANT a security system & match quality and features to what you need.

The first part of the chart summarizes CAMERAS – almost all of these manufacturers offer full security systems with alarms, door/window alerts and very integrated software. Some may simply want to consider a RING DOORBELL which affords you visibility/security at your front door.

The camera options are DIY models (listed in no particular order) – if you want a whole house security system you may want to call a professional (but it will have a setup fee and a hefty monthly charge from \$50 to \$100/month depending on vendor & equipment features). That is why it is so important to write down what you really want when choosing cameras.

As one example, one individual wanted to have a quality video system capable of flexible monitoring features to turn on alerts [recordings due to movement] with ability to see, save and forward [email or text] those alerts. This person wanted to get a system that could handle 5 cameras as there are 4 inside facing entrance points and one over the front door for deliveries & viewing of cars. Also, an extended battery life span and an outdoor camera option. This person did not want to pay for storage and only needed 30 days [even one week will do]. They did not require sirens or monitoring by police nor pan & tilt functionality. Another individual simply wanted visibility at their entrance and far corner of their garage. Each of us will be different in our needs.

Today you will see 2K or 4K video, two-way audio as standards in all models. Prices range from \$39 to \$150 for a camera. If you only need to watch a few doors with an indoor camera the low-end models are perfect and inexpensive. Getting alerts on your phone gives you a sense of security and ability to take action [via phone call] as the event is occurring.

Please write down your needs, do your research, call one of Tech Club members if you do not understand something or are down to two choices and can't decide.

Additional Notes: (1) Just because your house is safer doesn't mean the footage these streaming video cameras collect is necessarily safe—or even private. Data security and data privacy is a good idea. (2) These

camera devices have different capabilities with regard to their ability to record and store footage. This does present some challenges because the different device brands don't handle these aspects the same way. Installing a camera device but not being able to access its video footage, should there be a need like what recently took place, kind of defeats the purpose of having it. So do make sure that you are able to access the footage and (3) bear in mind with regard to Ring doorbell, you will be constrained by the location of your current doorbell and the "visibility" that this location affords for surveillance. Not a deal breaker but something to keep in mind.

Good luck and be safe,

Peninsula Tech Committee

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Manufacturer	Model	Price + Storage	Comments
CAMERA SECTION			
Ring	Stick Up camera 3 rd generation. NOT to be confused with Ring doorbell.	\$99 – NO free video storage. Outdoor mounts add \$9 - \$3/month for 1 camera - \$10/month unlimited	Available on Amazon Indoor/outdoor Has a solar power option. Rating 4.5/5 ** Certified by CR
Arlo Pro 2	Arlo Pro 2 - Wireless Home Security Camera System with Siren Rechargeable, Night vision, Indoor/Outdoor, 1080p, 2-Way Audio, Wall Mount Cloud Storage Included 2 Camera Kit (VMS4230P)	\$398 for 2 cameras & base hub Rolling 7 days cloud storage.	Can add Doorbell [\$99] Available on Amazon Rating 4.3/5 ** Certified by CR
Arlo Pro 3	Arlo Pro 3 – Wire-Free Security 2 Camera System 2K with HDR, Indoor/Outdoor, Color Night Vision, Spotlight, 160° View, 2-Way Audio, Siren Works with Alexa (VMS4240P)	\$299 for a 2 pack - includes base hub. Rolling 7 days cloud storage	Can add Doorbell [\$99] Available on Amazon Rating 4.4/5 ** Certified by CR
Google	Google Nest Cam Indoor Wired Home Security Camera 24/7 Live Video, 1080p HD, WIFI, Night Vision, 2-Way Talk, Mobile Intelligent Alerts, 3-Hour Event Snapshot, Works with Google Assistant & Alexa	\$130 for 1 wired camera 3 cameras for \$339 Nest Aware for storage \$6/month For outdoor Google Nest cameras, a 2 pack with 2 wired WIFI smart plugs is \$339	Available on Amazon Rating 4.5/5 ** Certified by CR
Eufy	eufy Security, eufyCam 2C Pro 2-Cam Kit, Wireless Home Security System with 2K Resolution, 180-Day Battery Life, HomeKit Compatibility, IP67, Night Vision, and No Monthly Fee	\$319 for 2 cameras & base station. \$ camera kit is \$429 16GB local storage – no monthly	Can add doorbell for \$123 Available on Amazon Rating 4.5/5
TP Link Kasa	Kasa Indoor Smart Home Camera by TP-Link, 1080p HD Security Camera Wireless 2.4GHz with Night Vision, Motion Detection for Baby Monitor, Cloud & SD Card Storage, Works with Alexa & Google Home (EC60)	\$35/camera Storage MicroSD card or cloud storage for monthly fee Outdoor camera is \$80 with built in siren	Available on Amazon Rating 4.5/5 ** Certified by CR
eufy	eufy Security, Wi-Fi Video Doorbell, 2K Resolution, No Monthly Fees, Secure Local Storage, Human Detection, 2-Way Audio, Free Wireless Chime-Requires Existing Doorbell Wires. Alexa compatible	\$120 / doorbell No storage monthly fees – footage stored locally in the camera. No cloud support. Compatible with eufy cameras.	Available on Amazon Rating 4.5/5 If someone steals camera the footage is gone – therefore download events to phone ASAP. True for ALL local storage options.

Manufacturer	Model	Price + Storage	Comments
DOORBELL SECTION			
Ring (3 rd Gen)	Ring Video Doorbell 3 – enhanced WIFI, improved motion detection, easy installation. Two-way audio. Alexa compatible.	\$140/doorbell Battery powered OR wired if you have a doorbell. Storage for 60 days with Ring Protection plan – monthly charge - \$3/month or \$10/household	Available on Amazon Rating 4.6/5 Sold everywhere incl Home Depot
August	August Doorbell Camera, 1st generation - Dark Gray. Two-way audio, WIFI. 1 st generation doorbell – will improve over time. Alexa compatible	\$150/doorbell. Must be wired connection. Compatible with August door lock. Storage is a monthly charge - \$5/month	Available on Amazon Rating 2.7/5 Low rating
eufy	eufy Security, Wi-Fi Video Doorbell, 2K Resolution, No Monthly Fees, Secure Local Storage, Human Detection, 2-Way Audio, Free Wireless Chime- Requires Existing Doorbell Wires. Alexa compatible	\$120/doorbell No storage monthly fees – footage stored locally in the camera. No cloud support. Compatible with eufy cameras.	Available on Amazon Rating 4.5/5 If someone steals camera the footage is gone – therefore download events to phone ASAP. True for ALL local storage options
Arlo	Arlo Video Doorbell HD Video Quality, 2-Way Audio, Package Detection Motion Detection and Alerts Built-in Siren Night Vision Easy Installation (Existing Doorbell Wiring Required) (AVD1001) Works with Alexa	\$99/doorbell Has a quick reply per-recorded message feature. Built in siren. Storage can be local if you have an Arlo base station or cloud with Arlo Smart – from \$3/month to \$10/month	Available on Amazon Rating 4.4/5
Blink	All-new Blink Outdoor – wireless, weather-resistant HD security camera with two-year battery life and motion detection – 1 camera kit. Works with Alexa.	\$99/doorbell [2 camera kit is \$179] Storage local purchase a USB flash drive OR Blink Subscription Plan for cloud storage - \$3/month with rolling 60 days	Available on Amazon Rating 4.2/5
Remo	Remo S Bell HD video, 2-way talk, night vision, weather-resistant. Smart Wired Video Doorbell Camera •No subscription fees; free rolling 3-day cloud •Works with Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and IFTTT	\$99/doorbell Free storage in cloud for rolling 3 days. Paid subscriptions are available	Sold at Home Depot Ratings 4.7/5

NOTE: ** on list above means tested by Consumer Reports (CR) [data privacy/security were tested] & rated in top 7 as superb.