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With dramatically improved digital technology and diminished operating costs, security cameras are found not only in banks or department stores anymore. In fact, if you look around, you will find them in every conceivable place, making them among the more widely-used closed-circuit television (CCTV) systems. People have different reasons for wanting a home security camera in place. When you get to the point that you're going to design and install a home security camera system, be aware that one size does not fit all. You'll need to customize your design to fit the needs that you have for your family and the limitations that you might have in the floor plan at your home.

### Selecting the right camera

Cameras have different features for different purposes. When the area and objects to be under surveillance is determined then you must next determine the camera features to best suit the security needs of the organization.

Fixed or Pan, Tilt, and Zoom (PTZ Cameras)? When you walk into a building have you ever got the feeling someone was following you? How about just staring at you? Look up and you may see one of two types of cameras: Fixed or PTZ. The fixed camera will just stare at a particular view. The PTZ camera will survey the scene with movements like up and down, left and right, zooming in and zooming out. Fixed cameras are cheaper and thus are more widely used.

Color, Thermal or Infrared? With security cameras, color may be beneficial in low lighting but that's just about the only time. In this case an infrared or thermal camera would be beneficial as they produce black and white images. Black and white images won't blend together in the dark as color images would. Thus, color cameras would be better suited for surveillance during the day or of well lit areas. Infrared or Thermal are better suited for darker areas. Infrared cameras use infrared illuminators to create a clear image.

Megapixel or Standard? Think of picture quality of an HD television compared to picture quality of the television you were exposed to when you were a child and think of the image quality of movies today compared to image quality just 10 years ago. The improvements from standard to high definition image quality means smaller items in images can be identified and used as evidence or clues during an investigation of a surveillance video.

Analog or IP? The difference between the two is the same between a camcorder that records on a video cassette (analog) and an all digital camcorder (IP). While both types can be transmitted through a network an analog camera requires an adaptor to do so. A major benefit for using IP video surveillance cameras is that only IP cameras are capable of having megapixel resolution.

These special lamps make infrared cameras considerably more expensive, like 2 to 3 times more, than color cameras. Remote security cameras are surveillance camera systems that can be accessed from any location. These cameras allow the user to watch the live video (as monitored by these cameras) from any part of the world. Remote security cameras are especially useful for home owners, who have to stay out of the home for a long time. Home owners can use remote security camera to keep a watch on the babysitter, who is taking care of your kid or to inspect what your kid is doing in your absence.

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[Janet Fernandes](#) - About Author:

Janet is expert in maintaining a [Security Cameras](#) in London. Also maintains a [CCTV](#) and wireless cameras at an affordable price.

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