

Thinking of CCTV?



This story is from one of our MHWAA members (name and address obviously omitted) who decided to buy CCTV. He is sharing his experiences to help anyone else who may be considering it.

“After a spike in burglaries in my street I started to look around at what crime prevention products are out there to protect me and my family!

I love technology!

Anyway after installing sash jammers on my window, anti-bump / anti-snap locks, light switch timers etc I thought about CCTV. Initially I thought it would be too expensive and complicated to install but how wrong I was!

After trawling the internet I found a Swann CCTV system comprising a recorder box (which goes under my television) and 4 cameras.

(I don't work for Swann – honest – there are other makes out there but they seem to be one of the best makes out there)

I have put the link here purely to help people when choosing to see what they look like etc:

<http://www.swann.com/uk/dvrs-kits>

I found that buying off the internet saved me hundreds of pounds and web sites like ebay.com and amazon.com are some of the cheapest.

Anyway I bought a Swann DVR8-4000 system for under £300 from a reputable internet electronics chain but in some shops it was over £500 – hence I recommend spending the time shopping around! The prices vary massively!

DV1 quality apparently is the best quality and gives the sharpest images so I bought one with this feature.

You get a recorder box and 4 cameras and a mouse in the box (plus instructions, sticker for your window etc)

I installed the 4 cameras around my house (rear and front) so that all sides of the house are covered.

The instructions were easy to follow and they were easy to drill holes / screw into my overhang.

It took a bit longer fixing the wires to the brickwork / mortar but apparently you can buy 'wireless' cameras but they were much more expensive. I needed my Dad to help me with the 'brickwork'! That took a couple of hours!

You literally plug the cables in the back of the box, connect it to the internet and away you go!

The box can record a months worth of footage – and you can search, watch and playback what happened at 2am in the morning on all 4 cameras!

We used it to record and watch 'Father Christmas' arriving late on Christmas Eve and showed it to my 3 year old son on the TV on Christmas morning!

It records colour in the day and in black and white at night time (night vision) but the quality is excellent. It doesn't record sound but you can buy microphones for it if you want to.

The feature I like the most is that I can watch my CCTV (live) from my smartphone, computer or tablet when I am not at home (particularly useful if on holiday or working away). The box under my TV connects to the internet. You can download apps or software for this (free).

It also has motion detection where you can set it up to automatically email you (with a picture) when a cat enters your garden or you switch the kitchen light on. I think I have to tweak the sensitivity a bit!

I also have Smartwater and so now have CCTV and Smartwater stickers in my window and so I am hoping that if a burglar sees my house they will think twice!

When there was a burglary on my street and the Police arrived, the first thing they did was to do a 'CCTV sweep' to see if there are any cameras in the area. Even though they may not capture faces they are good at pinpointing exact times or catching a person or car going past. Anything like this can help. You can get the video off the box and onto a USB stick if you so wish.

One of the cameras is covering my neighbours path as well as mine and so I am being neighbourly as well!

In summary, they are not as expensive as you think and you can install them yourself relatively easily. And the technology certainly has moved on! “