

# Step-by-step plan for cameras at home

Are you planning to install a camera at your home? Or to have an installation company do it for you? That is fine. However, you must adhere to the rules for camera surveillance. If you do not, you will violate privacy laws. View what you should take into account here.

## 1. Purpose of the camera

- Think carefully about why you want to install a camera. For example, is your neighbourhood (demonstrably) suffering from a lot of nuisance? Or are burglaries a regular occurrence? If you install a camera for no particular reason, there is a greater chance that you will be in violation.
- Are you installing a doorbell camera to see who is at the door when the doorbell rings? That is a different purpose than filming your property against theft. It is also not necessary to have a video doorbell film continuously.
- Also, consider whether a camera will really help solve your problem.

## 2. Buying a camera

- Find out which type of camera is the best buy for you. Do not just look at what is best for your purpose for camera surveillance, but also check the privacy rules for cameras.
- The most important privacy rule is that you can [only film your own property](#). So not the property of your neighbours or the public road. Make sure you buy a camera that you can adjust as accurately as possible. So that you do not film, or film as little as possible of your neighbour's property or the public road.
- Ask the seller what security options the camera has. Also, check whether the camera manufacturer has access to the images.
- Ask where the camera images are stored. For example, in the camera itself (on an SD card) or at the manufacturer's premises. Pay attention to where the manufacturer is located. European manufacturers must comply with the same privacy rules as in the Netherlands, but manufacturers outside the EU do not. From a privacy perspective, local storage is preferable. Furthermore, you usually need a subscription to store camera images with the manufacturer. The use of local storage is usually free, apart from the cost of the SD card.

## 3. Installing a camera

- Check what privacy settings the camera has and adjust it.
- Take a good look at how to [adjust your camera](#).
- Set your own password and, if possible, your own username.
- If you have your camera installed by an installation company, see how the installer sets up the camera and tell them you want to set the camera to be privacy-proof.

#### 4. Informing people

- Let people know there is a camera. For example, with a sign or sticker. This is especially important if it is not immediately clear that there is a camera, such as with a video doorbell.
- People may feel their privacy is being violated if they see a camera, but do not know what you are filming. To avoid any disputes between neighbours, you should therefore let your neighbours know why you are installing the camera and what you are filming. You can also show them what your camera captures.

#### 5. Retaining images

- Retain the images your camera records for as short a time as possible. Delete the images as soon as you no longer need them. For example, after 24 hours. Check your camera settings to see if you can have the images deleted automatically.
- Or do not save images at all. If you have a video doorbell, you can only watch live who is at the door. And not save those images.

#### 6. Sharing images

- You may not simply share the images, for example, by posting them on the Internet. You can only do this if the people being filmed have given their consent.
- If a criminal offence has been committed, you can, of course, share the images with the police if you file a report.

#### 7. Dealing with complaints

- The people you film have privacy rights. This means, for example, they have the right to view the images you have made of them.
- If one of your neighbours has a complaint about your camera, see if your camera can be readjusted. If this does not help enough, you can also consider removing the camera.
- If you cannot reach an agreement, you can request mediation through community mediation or the community police officer. Also read: [Being filmed by a camera installed at another house](#)
- Remember that your neighbours can take you to court. So make sure you adhere to the rules for camera surveillance

Want to know more about cameras at home? View [Camera use in and around the home](#).