



TECHNICAL  
SERVICES



**TOP TIPS FOR CCTV**



# .TECHNICAL SERVICES.

(Shropshire) LTD

UNIT 8, BICTON BUSINESS PARK, ISLE LANE, BICTON, SHREWSBURY, SY3 8DY

☎ 08456 58 58 57 & 01743 85 1313 Fax 01743 85 1211

[www.tsshropshire.co.uk](http://www.tsshropshire.co.uk)

email [info@tsshropshire.co.uk](mailto:info@tsshropshire.co.uk)

*Specialists in Closed Circuit Television,*

*Public Address & Sound Systems, Radio Communications & Induction Loops*

## TOP TIPS FOR CCTV

### Defining criteria

#### Why do I want to install CCTV?

It's essential to start with a clear idea of what you want your CCTV system to achieve.

What suits your neighbour or another business may not suit you.

- Are you considering the investment as a deterrent to intruders and thieves? To record access to a building or car park?
- To monitor movement in particular areas of your property?
- To record activity round the clock or at specific times, for example when your property is unoccupied?

You also need to think about what you want to do with the information once you have it.

- How long do you want to keep it?
- How often do you want to review it?
- With clear objectives, it's easy to determine the criteria – such as picture resolution, camera focal length and image storage requirements – that will ensure your chosen system is fit for purpose.



### Basic requirements

#### What equipment will I need?

Essentially, a CCTV system comprises one or more cameras and either a software- or hardware-based image recording facility. Until recently CCTV cameras operated by transmitting analogue video signals through copper cables to a central location where the video signal was recorded. While analogue cameras still have their place, today's more sophisticated HD cameras produce digital output and use IP networks to relay their images. The number and type of cameras you choose will depend on the subject and the extent of the surveillance area.

### Recording options

#### How can I store images?

Images can be stored on the camera itself, on a computer or on a digital video recorder (DVR). The output from an IP camera is digital and is recorded without change; the output from an analogue camera is first digitised and then stored. DVRs and computer software offer the ability to record multiple channels, i.e. images from several cameras at the same time, regardless of the camera type. With analogue cameras, the number of channels that can be recorded is limited by the number of physical connections on the DVR, whereas in an HD system it is usually limited by software licensing. The number of camera sources you want to record from, the image quality you require, and the length of time that you want to store those images will all influence which recording device is best for you.

# Ongoing surveillance

## How can I monitor images?

A key consideration in getting the right system is to know how you want to view the images from your cameras. Will you have a central control room with trained operators constantly monitoring screens? Do you want a third-party to monitor your property? Will you want to access your CCTV images remotely while abroad? Do you want to receive email or text alerts if suspicious activity is detected by your CCTV system? HD cameras can be connected to the internet to relay images anywhere, and both HD IP cameras and DVRs have the capability for motion detection.

## Static or not

### Do I need fixed or moving cameras?

Camera housings can either contain fixed cameras, trained on a single location, or PTZ (pan/tilt/zoom) cameras that can rotate 360° and provide pre-programmed 'tours' of an area. Motion detectors can be added to a PTZ camera system so that the camera can respond and focus in on suspicious activity. Depending on the rationale for your CCTV system, you might want a mixture of fixed and PTZ cameras to cover different zones and applications.

## Camera features

### Do I need IP HD or analogue cameras?

While an analogue camera is ideal if you want to monitor one location from a fixed position, an HD camera is more flexible and can enable more sophisticated surveillance, recording and review. HD cameras deliver high definition/mega-pixel images, which give greater detail and can cover a greater range. They can also be powered over a network using Power over Ethernet (PoE), in this case they do not require a separate power supply. Some HD cameras have audio recording built in which allows recorded messages to be broadcast automatically to warn people that they are being watched and this feature can save costs in many areas i.e. no need for Public Address system to accompany for cameras & no need for a remote monitoring company to transmit warning messages. The Audio functionality can be integrated into any camera or the camera's housing and it's not a specific benefit of IP HD. Both types of camera can also feature infrared technology to capture full-colour images during the day and black-and-white images in low light or even complete darkness. However, one of the main benefits and selling points for IP HD CCTV systems is the fact the client can zoom in on playback without pixilation!

## Intelligent security

### Should I integrate my CCTV with my other security systems?

CCTV cameras can be easily integrated to enhance your security. When integrated with an access control or alarm system, your CCTV system can be set to record images at a higher resolution when the alarm is triggered or a door/entrance is activated. Your specific integration requirements will influence the type of camera and recording equipment you need.



# Investing wisely

## How do I make the most of my budget?

This depends on what you want your CCTV system to achieve. HD cameras are more expensive because their image quality is far superior and they are more flexible. With that said though on multiple quantities of analogue CCTV camera systems a HD CCTV system can be cost effective because fewer quantities of cameras are required (*please visit the video demo's on this site were Technical Services have clearly displayed Analogue vs. HD*) and although the cameras are more expensive in comparison to many branded analogue cameras the recorders are cheaper in comparison to branded DVRs. But analogue cameras are often sufficient for the job, if you only need fixed-point monitoring, a low-spec, low-cost analogue system would be the right choice. On the other hand, if you need to monitor a large area, it may be more cost-effective to use one high-resolution PTZ camera or one Mega Pixel High Definition camera in the place of several fixed analogue cameras.



## Going digital

### Should I upgrade to a digital system?

The need to upgrade will depend on what equipment you already have, your surveillance requirements and of course your budget. By replacing a VHS video recorder with a DVR, the feed from existing analogue cameras can be digitised and more easily stored. The system can then benefit from features, such as motion detection, which are supported by DVRs. HD cameras can also be introduced to work alongside analogue cameras allowing you to benefit from their technology where appropriate.

### TECHNICAL SERVICES (Shropshire) Ltd specialises in the following fields:-

- **Closed Circuit Television Surveillance Systems.**
- **Access control audio visual and card systems.**
- **Induction loop systems for the hard of hearing**
- **Sound Systems and Public Address**
- **Radio Communications Systems**
- **Background Music**

**Offering advice, sales and service at a very competitive rate.**

**Please remember we are only . . . . . a 'phone call away.**

**Assuring you of our best attention at all times.**

**BIG ENOUGH TO COPE & small enough to care**