

HOME SECURITY SYSTEMS

The following information about home security systems was sourced on cnet.com. CNET tracks all the latest consumer technology breakthroughs and shows you what is new, what matters and how technology can enrich your life. We give you the information, tools and advice that will help you decide what to buy and how to get the most out of the tech in your life.

Ring

The Good The \$199 Ring Alarm Security Kit is quick to install, its app is easy to use and the system itself is simple to manage. The price is excellent and you can add extra accessories a la carte as needed.

The Bad Ring's home security system does not currently work with Alexa, despite being an Amazon brand -- or any other major smart home platforms.

The Bottom Line Ring did not do anything particularly innovative with its Alarm Security Kit, but this inexpensive DIY system stands out because of its simplicity.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 1/2 Out of 5/ 7.5 Overall | 7.5 | 9 | 7 | 9 | \$199.00 |

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Abode

The Good The \$300 Abode starter kit has all of the basics you need for a beginner DIY security system. Add optional accessories and contract-free professional monitoring as needed. It works with Alexa, IFTTT and Nest.

The Bad Abode's starter kit is on the pricey side, but the value is there -- you get a lot of useful hardware for your money. You have to log in to Abode's web app to create automations and access other advanced features.

The Bottom Line Abode's scalable hardware and monitoring services, solid performance and smart integrations make it one of the most appealing DIY security systems available today.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 Out of 5/ 8.3 Overall | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | \$300.00 |

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Nest

The Good The \$499 Nest Secure alarm system starter kit is incredibly easy to arm and disarm and its Detect sensors do a lot more than monitor whether a door is open or closed.

The Bad It is expensive and locks you into Google's smart home platform.

The Bottom Line Nest Secure works well, but its value is only so-so, especially if you are not sold on incorporating Nest thermostats, locks and other Google devices to your smart home.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 1/2 Out of 5/ 7.2 Overall | 7 | 7 | 7 | 8 | \$499.00 |

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SimpliSafe

The Good SimpliSafe is one of the most affordable monitored security services you can buy, and it is also one of the easiest to set up and use. The variety of sensors all performed well in our tests, and the re-designed hardware looks better than ever at no additional cost.

The Bad SimpliSafe is not the best option if you want a security system that will sync up with a larger smart home platform, and the \$99 SimpliCam is far from our favorite smart security camera. Also, we could only get the glass break sensor to work with the sensitivity dialed all the way up.

The Bottom Line With reliable, comprehensive coverage at an outstanding value, SimpliSafe belongs at the top of your list if you are looking to secure your home.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 Out of 5/ 7.5 Overall | 8.5 | 9 | 8 | 8 | \$259.00 |

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AT&T

The Good AT&T Digital Life offers legit security specs, plus competitive home automation functionality. Inventing your own automation programs reminds you why sci-fi writers dreamed up the smart home in the first place.

The Bad Between the mandatory 2-year contract, potential costs and contract renewals for upgrading equipment, and a hefty initial setup fee, many people might have trouble justifying the expense.

The Bottom Line AT&T Digital Life offers a compelling alternative to the modular approach to smart living. If you are already planning to install a professional security system, AT&T Digital Life offers comparable rates. And if you can justify the extra expense, upgrading your package to include home automation buys one of the sleekest smart home setups out there.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|---|
| 4 Out of 5/ 8.3 Overall | 9 | 8 | 8 | 8 | Pricey w/setup fees & ala carte pricing |

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August Smart Lock Pro

The Good Your August Smart Lock Pro purchase includes a DIY smart lock, a Connect Wi-Fi module and a DoorSense open/close sensor -- all for \$279. The Pro also supports Z-Wave (hub not included) and works with Amazon Alexa speakers, the Google Home, Apple HomeKit and Nest.

The Bad You cannot buy the Pro as a standalone lock in stores; Z-Wave customers/anyone not interested in the Connect accessory must go through August's list of professional dealers.

The Bottom Line August's bundled Smart Lock Pro is a great option if you want tons of integrations at your disposal, but anyone craving a simpler lock should look elsewhere.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 Out of 5/ 8.0 Overall | 9 | 8 | 7 | 8 | \$279.00 |

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Amazon Cloud Cam

The Good The \$120 Amazon Cloud Cam's crisp 1080p HD live feed, prompt motion notifications and free 24-hour clip storage set a new value standard for indoor home security cameras.

The Bad Only Amazon cloud subscribers can set motion zones and receive person alerts. Continuous recording is not available (even for subscribers), and there is no local microSD card storage.

The Bottom Line Amazon's Cloud Cam is affordable, reliable and easy to use, but it is the free storage that ultimately makes it more appealing than Nest security cameras and many other home security competitors.

| Rating | Features | Usability | Design | Performance | Pricing |
|----------------------------|----------|-----------|--------|-------------|----------|
| 4 Out of 5/ 8.5 Overall | 9 | 9 | 7 | 9 | \$120.00 |

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Arlo

Reviews.org reports that Arlo is number seven in our overall best home security cameras list and the Arlo Pro ranks number two in our best outdoor cameras list. Because they are wireless and waterproof, these are incredibly versatile devices, adaptable for any number of uses and environments. They are supported by a highly rated mobile app that receives alerts from the cameras so you can monitor your cameras on the go. The Arlo and the Arlo Pro are the two most similar cameras from this line—and as the name indicates, the Arlo Pro delivers some new features and updates to the original Arlo. Before we get into comparing the cameras, let's start with some general features they have in common.

Pros

- Wireless
- Automatic night vision
- Easy DIY installation and setup
- Waterproof IP65 rating for outdoor use
- Free cloud storage (up to 1GB) for up to 7 days
- Mobile monitoring with Arlo app (iOS, Android)

Cons

- No continuous recording
- Some reported lag in motion-sensitive recording and alerts
- False low-battery reports when temperature drops below freezing

\$459.00