

Crime prevention advice for Closed Circuit TV



You can prevent your business from being vulnerable to crime by taking simple steps to ensure your business is safe and secure, both inside and out.

With the cost of CCTV systems reducing quite dramatically over the past years, a camera system for small businesses has now become a viable security add-on. Business ownership of CCTV is now considerably higher.



Most burglaries and theft are committed by opportunists. Burglars target businesses with no obvious signs of security, or in places they think they won't be seen.

To reduce the chance of your business being targeted by criminals, consider the following website **www.securedbydesign.com** and also see some equipment available from a broad range of options that might suit your business.



There are four main CCTV image categories:

Monitoring:

Cameras provide a wide-angle view of an area, showing what people within it are doing. It does not allow for identification of those people.

Detection:

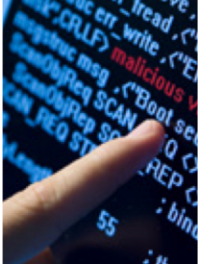
This shows people at a size where they fill approximately 10% of the screen, allowing details such as clothing colour/ type and vehicle colour be seen.

Recognition:

Here people will fill not less than 50% of the screen, allowing for recognition by those who know them well.

Identification:

People fill not less than 100% of the screen, at a picture quality that enables their identity to be established beyond reasonable doubt.



Closed Circuit TV



It's vital you know what you want your CCTV system to achieve. Is it to monitor customers and staff or is it to act as a deterrent to would be thieves? Once you decide what you want from your CCTV, you can tell your supplier who can then advise what type of system is best suited.

Importantly, always use a reputable company to install your CCTV. Both the National Security Inspectorate (www.nsi.org.uk) and Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (www.ssaib.org) list companies that meet the essential standards. Remember, if you want your CCTV to function at night, you must specify this to the supplier so suitable lighting options can be installed alongside the cameras.

CCTV and the Data Protection Act 1998

All aspects of the CCTV system must comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. The Office of the Data Protection Commissioner has produced guidance in relation to how the Act should be interpreted, including advice on the required signage.

Registering with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)

All businesses that have CCTV must register with the ICO. Owners should be aware that under the Data Protection Act notification is a legal requirement for organisations processing and collecting CCTV images. Therefore it is important that businesses that operate CCTV equipment notify the ICO, as failure to notify is a criminal offence.

Additionally, some systems can deliver CCTV footage to your mobile phone and can be accessed worldwide. Cameras can also be motion activated and deliver remote alerts to your phone. Ask your CCTV installer for more details.

Keep your CCTV in good working order

Completing regular maintenance to keep your system working properly, including cleaning lenses every two months and regularly checking image quality to make sure your system is correctly adjusted to the conditions. Fitting cameras with robust anti-tamper housing to reduce interference and vandalism.

Protecting your CCTV equipment and footage

Ensure recording equipment is kept in a secure area with restricted access. The hard drive where footage is recorded must be protected against theft or any evidence gathered will be lost.

For more information please visit
www.warwickshirebusinesswatch.co.uk

