

## **Video Doorbells – Information for Residents**



We have seen a number of good arrests across the city recently where video or smart doorbells have greatly assisted police in quickly identifying those responsible for committing housebreaking and other crimes.

Video or smart doorbells use inbuilt cameras and other smart technology to provide the extra security of CCTV - but in a compact and often less expensive package than a full domestic CCTV system. They are installed in place of an existing doorbell and provide an audible ring for you to hear, but will also alert you on your phone or smart device - providing the householder with video surveillance and means of recording and capturing images.

They can be wireless or hard wired and are easier to install than many other CCTV security systems. Many offer additional features, for example being able to speak to delivery drivers and visitors to your home due to the inclusion of microphones and speakers.

There are a variety of similar products on the market with most offering the same set of features and specifications. We would always encourage you to research crime prevention products carefully and try and look for products that have [‘Secured by Design’](#) accreditation or rating.

Some of the advantages of video doorbells are:

### **1. You’ll Know Who’s There**

The main aim of a video doorbell is to let you know who is at your door without you having to open it. This keeps you safe from those who you might not want to come into contact with – you don’t even have to be near the door, or get close to it, to find out who’s there. You will be armed with all the information you need to decide whether to answer or not.

## 2. Speak To Visitors

Another important advantage of having a video doorbell is that you are able to speak to visitors without having to open the door. This can be done from inside your home or many miles away from it since the video doorbell system works through your smart device.

## 3. Review Footage

If a visitor doesn't want to be 'spotted' and knocks on the door instead, video doorbells work in this situation too, capturing images that you can check later. In most occasions this will be legitimate people such as delivery drivers, canvassers, and people you may know coming to visit. However it could capture those at your property who have criminal intent and their images could be all important to the police as part of their investigation.

## 4. Image Quality

Technical features of video doorbells mean most work extremely well during both day and night, also ensuring the capture of good, high definition images of people approaching your home.

## 5. Good Deterrent

Video doorbells can be a great deterrent, stopping a potential housebreaker before they do any damage to your property. Simply seeing a video doorbell may be enough for a criminal to look elsewhere. If they do try and break-in, or succeed in forcing entry, the video doorbell could have captured good images of the culprit(s) and be valuable evidence for the police in their efforts to identify and arrest them.

Installing a video doorbell should be considered part of a suite of crime prevention measures for your home. It alone will not prevent entry to your property, but it can be an important tool to identify who was responsible for criminality and also act as a deterrent. For information and guidance on using CCTV at your home please also visit the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) website

For more information on home security and how best to protect your home and belongings, please visit the Police Scotland website [here](#) or contact your local Crime Prevention Officer on '101' for assistance.

**Remember:** If you see anyone acting suspiciously near to your property please contact the police immediately with as detailed a description as possible of any person(s) or vehicle(s) involved. **Please call '999' if an emergency and urgent police assistance is required or 101 to report the matter to the police.**