

SAFETY GUIDE

HIDDEN CAMERAS AND HOW TO FIND THEM

Protect yourself, your friends and family from peeping cameras
with this easy to use, step-by-step guide



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Thank You and Be Safe!

HIDDEN CAMERAS

Hidden Cameras – A growing industry to watch so it doesn't watch you



Video cameras are so small that they can be hidden just about anywhere. Never before in history has your privacy been in so much jeopardy. There are hundreds of different stores, catalogs, mail order houses and Internet companies currently selling tiny wired and wireless cameras. These cameras are hidden in everything from normal looking electrical outlets to smoke detectors and Teddy Bears. There are more than 2 million surveillance cameras in the US according to the security industry. ACLU's Technology and Liberty program studies show that at least one in ten women were targeted for "voyeuristic reasons". And now men and children are being targeted as well.

Hundreds of thousands of tiny, hidden, wireless cameras have been sold and the rate of sale is dramatically increasing. As sales of these products increases so do the problems and the intrusion into privacy. In recent months there have been countless articles and news stories reporting on the misuse of hidden cameras. Hardly a day goes by that there isn't a story in the news about someone victimized by hidden cameras, hidden by landlords, hidden by ex-boyfriends, hidden by neighbors and hidden by total strangers. They have been discovered in public and private bathrooms, tanning salons, locker rooms, changing booths in clothing stores, hotel and motel rooms, and even private bedrooms. These cameras are placed by stalkers, Peeping Toms, prowlers and registered sex offenders.

Hidden Cameras - in the news and the Internet

- A camera hidden in a TV was given to a young boy by a registered sex offender.
- The Nashville Kats cheerleading squad had hidden cameras in their dressing room.
- A woman in California found a camera hidden in a clock radio in her bathroom.
- Scores of male college athletes were shocked to discover pictures secretly taken of them changing and showering in the locker rooms show up on porn websites.
- Women applying to be Hooters waitresses were filmed changing into and out of Hooters uniforms by a Hooters manager.
- A waiter was charged with placing a hidden camera in the restaurant bathroom.
- A search in Google.com in May 2004 brought up a list of 50,400 links on the topic - Hidden cameras in public bathrooms.

Hidden Wireless Cameras – How the latest technology works for remote video broadcast

The photograph on the next page looks like a typical bedroom or hotel room doesn't it? Yet it could be full of hidden cameras. There could be a camera hidden in the picture frame on the wall, another in the clock / radio on the night stand, one hidden in the desk lamp, one in the tissue dispenser in the bathroom, another in the smoke detector above the bed. Believe it or not, there are hundreds of companies that sell such hidden cameras to anyone who pays the price. And the price is not very much, as hidden cameras have become very inexpensive. Some of the newer cameras are so difficult to find, they are nearly impossible to detect without a hidden camera detector.



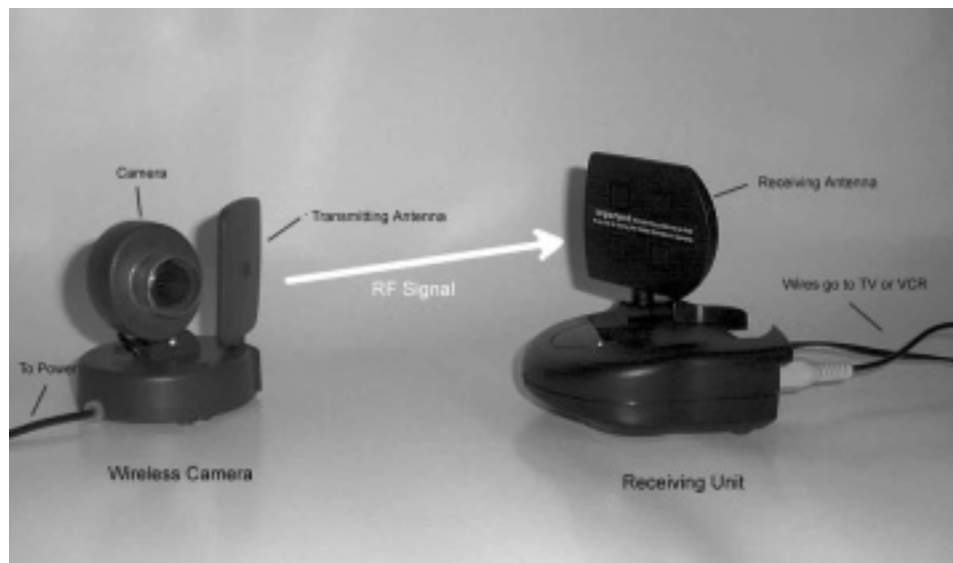
WHERE COULD THERE BE HIDDEN CAMERAS IN THIS HOTEL ROOM?

There are two types of hidden cameras, hardwired and wireless. A hardwired video camera is the same type that is typically used in businesses for crime prevention. These have shrunk considerably over the years so that the smallest ones available to the general public are about the size of a cube of sugar. The hardwired video camera has a wire or a cable that connects to a TV, VCR, camcorder or other recording or viewing device. A wireless camera is a package with a video camera and a wireless transmitter. A wireless package is slightly bigger since it also contains a wireless transmitter. However, a peeping tom can buy one of these that is smaller than the 9-volt battery that powers it. A wireless camera can be battery powered and completely hidden inside something with no visible camera lens and no wires. And it can transmit or beam the video through the air to a receiver from 200 feet to miles away depending on the power of the transmitter.

One of the most popular wireless camera systems is the X10 wireless camera system. All wireless camera systems consist of the following pieces:

- 1) The camera which can take digital pictures or video
- 2) The power supply which could be a battery pack or a plug in power supply, then a transmitter which sends the video signals through the air via radio signals
- 3) A receiver that picks up the signals and transmits the video or pictures to a TV, VCR or other recording device.

The picture below shows the different elements on the X10 camera system.



In the picture above you can see the arrow depicting the Radio Frequency (RF) signal coming from the antenna and transmitted to the receiver. It is this RF signal that the detectors pick up to detect the camera. The receiver on this setup can be up to 300 feet away from the camera, which means that it could be at a neighbors house, hidden somewhere outside, in a van down the street or anywhere within range. Many other wireless camera systems are sold in spy shops and on the Internet and are available to the average consumer. Years ago systems like these were only available to law enforcement and government agencies. Now they are sold to the general public. No special license or security clearance is required. Some of these systems are smaller than a quarter and are built into many ordinary looking devices.

The X10 camera is about the size of an egg and can be hidden in many different objects. The camera to your right however is much, much smaller and can be hidden just about anywhere. The quarter size camera in the picture has an antenna and a transmitter built into the unit, what the picture does not show is the power supply. This little camera will run up to 10 hours on one 9V battery, or indefinitely if powered by a plug in power supply. It takes full motion color or black and white video at 380-line resolution and operates with as little as 0.7 lux, or very low light conditions. This is a color camera that the seller advertises can be placed on a remote controlled plane, boat or even on a pet! This camera is so small and light that it



can go anywhere. It measures just 1" x ½" and sends high-resolution video to any TV or VCR within a 300-ft. range. It transmits video signals through walls and floors with superb picture clarity. But this camera is obsolete; the latest cameras are even smaller



The camera to the left, balanced upon a finger, is one of the smallest available as of May 2004. It is wireless and transmits up to 1,000 feet or around 300 meters. It is a full color video camera that can take video even in low light conditions. It can beam full color video for up to 9 hours on one 9 volt battery or continuously if plugged in. If this camera is hidden in an electrical appliance such as a clock radio, pencil sharpener, desk lamp, etc. it can beam video continuously, 24/7.

Hidden Wireless Camera Marketplace – Provocative advertising that works

Advertisers for these hidden wireless cameras suggest that users hide it in a houseplant or air conditioning vent to make sure your nanny isn't mistreating the kids while you're away. Or, mount it in a mailbox to see who's been swiping your mail. Or place it in the kitchen cabinet near the candy stash to make sure your kids aren't secretly raiding it. With products and advertising like this, it is easy to see how these devices can be misused and how your privacy can be easily compromised. Is this something that a coworker, creepy neighbor, old boyfriend, ex husband, or some one else is using to secretly watch you?

There are countless companies that sell small wireless cameras like these, already hidden in many common objects. The cameras are so skillfully hidden that you need a camera detector to find them. Of the dozens of camera detectors out there, there are three video detectors that we have tested and that we recommend. The team at Main Street Safety has tested many of the wireless and wired camera detectors and recommends these as the ones with the best overall performance at the best overall value. The first is a hidden wireless camera detector that we offer on our website <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>, the MSS-005. The MSS-005 comes with 2 CR2032 batteries and an exclusive User Guide that we wrote for this detector. This is a great little detector for wireless cameras. It is about the size of a lipstick container and very effective.



The second one that we recommend is the MSS-005V. This one is about the size of a stack of 5 or 6 credit cards. It has all the features of the MSS-005 but also has a vibrate function so that you can detect the presence of a wireless camera without being too obvious. Put it in a pocket as you move around the room, and when it detects a hidden camera, you will feel it vibrate to warn you. Take it out of your pocket to sweep around and find out exactly where the camera is or just leave the room, with no one the wiser, it is your choice.



The third one that we recommend is the MSS-1020. This is the BMW of hidden camera detectors. It is bigger and more powerful than the other two and it will detect wireless cameras, hardwired video cameras and camcorders. It has a series of lights that can help you find exactly where the camera may be hidden. It is like the hot/cold game. When you point it and more lights come on you are getting warmer, when the lights go off you are getting colder and when they all come on you are getting really close. A knob turns up or turns down the sensitivity. Turn the knob up to the maximum for the first pass at sweeping the room for hidden cameras and then turn down the sensitivity as you get closer to where the camera is hidden.

This is about the size of a cordless phone and will fit in a purse if it isn't already too full. It too has a vibrate feature that give you warning by sight and by feel. The detector only vibrates when the camera is very close.

For details about these detectors, visit <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>

Before considering the purchase of a detector, review this list of some of the types of different hidden wireless cameras that are sold today.

Hidden Wireless Camera Products – Everyday items that can invade your privacy

The following pictures and descriptions cover most of the different hidden wireless camera products available in the market today. These products are readily available, inexpensive and easy to operate, making them very attractive to a large consumer base. It seems that every month there are new hidden cameras; there is even one company that makes a hidden camera that is built into a writing pen. While many who purchase these cameras will only use them for security purposes, there are some people setting up these cameras with the specific intention to invade your privacy by videotaping you without your knowledge. Few of the companies currently making and selling these hidden cameras restrict sales to stalkers, Peeping Toms, prowlers and registered sex offenders.



Motion Detector with Hidden Wireless Camera

The only give away that this is not a normal motion detector is the tiny dark dot in the lower middle of the sensor. Believe it or not, this is the camera lens. Most people if told that this was a hidden camera would guess that the camera is behind the large window at the top part of the device. It is easy to see why this type of camera is called a pinhole lens camera. The lens is so small that most people would never notice it and how many that did notice it would know what it was. Would you even take a second look if one of these were at a vacation property or in a public bathroom? Look at these very carefully; if you see something that looks like a tiny glass lens, it may be a hidden camera.

This one has a manually adjustable, wide-angle lens to pick up all of the activity in a room. Cameras like this can take high quality color video that compares to a VCR. It can even be hooked up to a VCR for recording. Don't take the cover off of these unless you know the alarm code. If it is a real motion detector, the alarm will sound if you tamper with the device. The lens is easily covered with a piece of opaque tape or a bandage.



Book with Hidden Wireless Camera

There is a stack of books on top of the dresser or on a bookcase. Who would think that one of these books might hide a hidden camera? The Wireless Bookshelf Security Camera is a high-quality covert surveillance camera hidden in an inconspicuous book. The wireless color camera is located behind a nearly undetectable pinhole on the book's spine, or along the back edge. It transmits high-resolution color video to a receiver that can be placed in any room or car up to 200 feet away, or they can be standing just outside. The camera operates on 8 AA batteries so

there are no wires that have to be run.

Look carefully at each book along the spine, if one of them has a tiny glass lens or looks suspicious pick it up and open it. Flip through the pages, if it hides a camera you will see it inside the book when the book is opened.



Smoke Detector with Hidden Wireless Camera

Many companies sell cameras disguised in a real smoke detector. Some have a lens that looks out sideways through a mesh grille. With at least one model, up to 5 cameras can be installed within the same housing to give a full 360° view all around and a vertical downward view through a pinhole lens. Some of the models have a 3-way mounting so the camera can be pointed in any direction. The lens is completely undetectable behind the grille during normal viewing. With this type you will need a ladder and a flashlight or a wireless

camera detector. When you shine a flashlight through the grill and you look very closely you would be able to see the small glass lens if it contains a hidden camera. Pop the cover off and look inside. On many models the smoke detector functions actually work. Most hotels and motels worldwide are required by law to have smoke detectors. How many of these are hiding cameras?



Desk Lamp with Hidden Wireless Camera

It looks and works like a normal desk lamp, but who would suspect that this lamp has a little something extra. The covert, FCC approved Wireless Lamp Video Camera transmits quality black and white video up to 300 feet through all types of walls, except steel. The manufacturer makes and sells other models that transmit 700 feet, 2500 feet, 1 Mile, and 3 Miles. It is scary to think that with one of these and the proper receiver, anyone up to 3 miles away could be secretly watching you. Powered by 120-volt wall outlet, this hidden camera includes a functioning lamp with built-in, wide-angle pinhole lens camera. The receiver may be connected to any monitor, video switcher, VCR, or cable ready TV. Some lamp units have the camera hidden in the stem part of the lamp and others in the base. You'll have to look very carefully to find the pinhole camera lens or conduct a sweep with a wireless camera detector.



Houseplant with Hidden Wireless Camera

This is not your average household plant. This plant conceals a high resolution Japanese Color Camera and FCC approved 2.4GHz transmitter that will transmit video through walls, floors, and ceilings up to 300 feet. It can transmit for 6 to 8 hours on a single charge. A tiny switch is concealed on the top of the plant that turns on the camera and transmitter. With the receiver hooked up to a Monitor or VCR the user can view what is happening as it happens or record the video on a VCR for later review. The pinhole lens has a super wide field of view (92°) allowing it to monitor an entire room with only one camera. The set up of the camera takes only a few of minutes and requires no technical knowledge to operate.



Box of Tissues with Hidden Wireless Camera

Who would think that this box of tissues sitting beside the bed or on the bathroom counter is also a hidden camera? That's right; there are several companies that actually sell camera hidden in tissue dispensers. The camera is battery powered and transmits live, full color video to a receiver up to 300 feet away. As with the other products, a sweep with a hidden wireless camera detector will locate the lens location. Like other wireless camera systems, this hidden camera will transmit images through walls, floors, ceilings etc.



Stuffed Teddy Bear with Hidden Wireless Camera

This Teddy Bear looks very cute and cuddly, yet few people would suspect that there is a hidden camera built inside. A sweep with a hidden wireless camera detector would find the camera lens built into one of the bear's eyes. As with many of these wireless camera products, a simple bandage or sticky note over the lens will remove the potential personal intrusion of your privacy. While this hidden camera product could be used to keep tabs on a new babysitter, at the same time it could also be used by a person looking for pedophile related material.



Gym Bag with Hidden Wireless Camera

A few companies have even started selling gym bags with built in hidden wireless cameras. Be suspicious if someone asks you to hold onto their bag for them at the gym. This may not be something that you would want to take into the locker room with you. Look for tiny holes or grommets and of course a tiny little glass lens. There is a growing online community of video voyeur websites that specialize in locker room and gym hidden videos. Because it is a very lucrative industry, the incentive is very high for hidden camera owners to invade your privacy.



Electrical Outlet with Hidden Wireless Camera

If you saw this mounted on the bathroom wall near the sink would you ever guess that it could be a camera? There are in fact, many different companies that make hidden cameras that look like normal everyday electrical outlets. This would look completely normal in a hotel or motel or over at a friend's or relative's house. Scan it with a hidden camera detector or plug something into the outlet. If it has a camera you won't be able to plug in anything. This type of hidden camera would be very convenient for recording hidden videos in bathrooms. Because this type of hidden video is very popular online adult material, the incentive is also very high to make and distribute these types of videos.

Other Types of Products with Hidden Wireless Cameras

Videocassette Cases

Also be sure to check out videocassette cases since there is at least one company that is making cameras hidden in video cases. These can be casually placed on a table or shelf in a living room or den.

Air Filter

There is even a wireless camera hidden in an actual working air filter. The camera is hidden behind the grill of the air filter and is powered by the same electrical plug that powers the air filter. One of the only ways to possibly detect this type of hidden wireless camera would be with a sweep of the hidden camera detector.

Purse

Would you even give it a second thought if you saw a purse in the locker room, under the stall in a public bathroom or a changing room? Probably not, but, there is a company that makes and sells a wireless hidden camera that is built into a woman's purse. The video is transmitted up to 1,000 feet (about 300 meters), which means that a recording device can be in a car out in the parking lot, or carried by someone else.

Eye Glasses

The camera is hidden in the center of the eyeglasses in the bridge part, right between the eyes. It looks like an ordinary pair of nerdish glasses. There is at least one guy with an internet website that shows him having sex with women that have no idea that they are being filmed. Imagine their surprise when Uncle Harry runs across their video on the internet and tells everyone at the next family reunion.

Lava Lamps

Yes, believe it or not the icon of free love and peace has been taken over by Big Brother. There is a company that is selling Lava Lamps with a built-in hidden camera. The hidden camera is wireless and transmits the images up to 1000 feet away

Button

Due to advances in technology, there is a product with a tiny wireless camera disguised to look like a button. It is most often used as a wearable camera, hidden in a person's clothing. Button cameras are often used by undercover TV news programs. Sometimes button cameras are used on purses, backpacks and gym bags. Because of their size, cameras of this type are very hard to detect without using a wireless camera detector, without looking inside.

Phillips Head Screw

There is even a camera that looks like a normal Phillips head screw but, believe it or not, there is a camera lens in the center of the cross-shaped hole in the head of the screw. This camera can be completely hidden with just the screw head visible. This screw head camera can be made to look like it is part of a bathroom fixture, towel rack, or piece of furniture. Or it could just look like a screw in a wall that was left behind after taking down pictures. As stated earlier, if this type of hidden camera is very convenient for recording hidden videos in bathrooms, the incentive will be high to invade your privacy.

Hidden Wireless Camera Technology – The Risks for You and the Opportunities for Voyeurism

As this technology advances, cameras have become smaller, more portable and with a more expansive broadcast range. They can see in little or no light conditions (that's right some of them can see in total darkness). This means that video voyeurs can become even more creative in their placement and set up for the wireless hidden camera products described here.

Additionally, small wireless cameras are also placed under desks, work areas and tables to take pictures up a woman's dress or skirt. There are hundreds of websites advertising such "up skirt" pictures. And in many areas the people taking these "up skirt" pictures are not doing anything illegal – in many areas there are no laws against filming up a woman's skirt when she is out in public or at work.

For online adult material, voyeur websites featuring hidden videos have been singled out as one of the fastest growing segments of the online adult market. That means there is a huge incentive for people to cash in on this lucrative market by supplying and distributing hidden videos, primarily during very private moments of someone's life.

Since many state laws are unclear on the legality of the hidden camera voyeur issue, the potential invasion into your privacy is still a possibility. Now that you have a general background on the types of hidden wireless camera products out there, the next section deals with technology available to help you detect some of these wireless cameras.

How to Find a Hidden Camera with a Camera Detector

Since many of the hidden cameras are virtually undetectable to the naked eye, the best method of detecting hidden cameras in items listed above is to scan the area with a camera detector. A wireless camera detector picks up on the radio frequency signal (RF) that the wireless cameras use to transmit the video images. A combination wireless and hardwired camera detector such as the MSS-1020, detects the internal workings of the video camera itself, whether it is wireless or hardwired.



This camera is built into a real working clock radio. The camera's lens is completely hidden behind the opaque clock face and cannot be seen even under close inspection. How many bedrooms, hotels and motels have clock radios that look like this? In a recent case, cameras were hidden behind one-way mirrors in the girl's locker room at a high school.

One-way mirrors are easy to spot if you know how. All you need is a flashlight. Shine the flashlight at the mirror and move it closer and closer to the mirror until it is touching the mirror. If it is a one-way mirror, you will be able to see through the mirror, like a tinted window. A true mirror will just reflect the light; you will not be able to see through it. If you hold a flashlight right up against the mirror and the light shines inside, you have a one-way mirror. With a true mirror the light from the flashlight will be totally reflected, and you won't be able to see through it at all, even with a flashlight. Using the same technique with a flashlight, you should be able to see a camera if there is one behind the one way mirror.

The picture shows the proper way to scan a suspected device with any of the detectors that we recommend. The pictures show the MSS-005 Wireless Camera Detector, available from <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>. We have done extensive testing on many of the different models of camera detectors currently on the market and found this detector to be a very good value for a basic, easy to carry and conceal camera detector. Keep in mind that the MSS-005 and the MSS-005V detectors will only detect wireless hidden cameras and not hard-wired cameras. Only the MSS-1020 will detect hardwired and wireless video cameras. Make sure that the detector is turned on and that the green light is on. Slowly sweep the detector back and forth all around the object, over the top, around the front and back and around the sides. The closer the detector is to a hidden camera the better it works. To be sure, you should keep the detector within an inch or two of the suspected device. Make sure to scan the front, top back and sides of the object. With the MSS-005 detector the green light will begin to flash or blink and a beeping noise will sound if the detector detects the type of radio frequency waves that the hidden cameras emit. The MSS-055V will vibrate and if you are using the MS-1020, it will vibrate and red lights will light up.



Scanning for Hidden Wireless Cameras on Ceilings, Walls or High Shelves

To scan for cameras high up on walls or on the ceiling, attach the detector to a stick, rod, clothes hanger, broomstick, etc. with a piece of string, twist tie or a rubber band. Turn the detector on, making sure that the green light comes on. Then move the detector around any smoke detectors, motion detectors, heating or air conditioning grills, light fixtures, suspicious holes or cracks, or anything else that may look odd or out of place. Move the detector as close as possible to the objects being scanned and listen for the beeping sound the detector will emit when it detects a wireless hidden camera.

When you scan a room and the detector beeps in front of a mirror, teddy bear, alarm clock, flowerpot, gap or groove in walls or ceiling, black and reflective objects, then you should be highly suspicious. Use the detector to zero in on suspect objects to locate and identify it first.

More detailed information about the effective operation of a wireless camera detector can be found in our User's Guide. This exclusive guide is included with your purchase of any of the MAIN STREET SAFETY Wireless Camera Detectors. More information on this offer can be found at <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>.

What to Do if You Find a Hidden Camera

First don't panic. If you don't mind or like being watched go ahead and carry on with your normal life or flash the camera as you want. If, however, the thought of someone watching your every move and some of your most private moments posted on the world wide web for anyone to see bothers you then there are different steps that you can take. The quickest and easiest is to cover the camera lens, toss a towel over it or tape a bandage over the lens.

It is recommended that you contact the police or sheriffs' office if you want to possibly pursue legal options rather than a local media outlet for your 15 minutes of fame. If you are at a hotel or motel and you find a hidden camera, keep in mind that it may have been placed by the owner or by members of the staff. It might even have been placed by someone on the hotel security staff. Call the police instead of hotel security.

Incredible as it may sound, there are still many areas in the world where it is not illegal to secretly videotape someone, and the laws that do exist vary greatly from region to region. In some areas it is illegal to secretly record conversations but not to record video without sound. Check with the local law enforcement to find out about the laws regarding hidden or peeping cameras in your area. Main Street Safety will keep up to date on these issues and provide updates from current hidden camera court cases on their website at <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com>. They have a weblog that includes a special category for hidden camera issues that is updated often with the latest news and commentary.

Information and Resources about Wireless Hidden Cameras and Detectors

For additional updates on hidden camera privacy issues and important information about protecting you, friends and family, check out the resources at <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com> and subscribe to the free Main Street Safety email newsletter. As technology advances, they are committed to keeping up to date with providing personal safety resources and product offerings. From their recent test of the top selling wireless hidden camera detectors, their recommended selection for best performance and value is the **MAIN STREET SAFETY Wireless Hidden Camera Detector**. The detector and exclusive User Guide are available online at <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>.

For more information about wireless hidden camera detectors – latest news, resources and safety products, visit <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com/detector.htm>

Do you have a friend who could use this important information? Send them to <http://www.mainstreetsafety.com>