

## Choosing a Video Doorbell

Investing in home security is always a smart move. Ensuring the safety of yourself and your family and protecting your possessions from theft is of paramount concern to any homeowner.

If your budget doesn't allow for a full security system, you've likely thought of less expensive ways to achieve a more secure home and video doorbells are among the most popular trends.

Keeping a watchful eye on the other side of the door from either inside your home or from a remote location with these compact live-streaming devices can provide an extra level of comfort and sense of security. But as with any consumer tech, all video doorbells are not created equally. Consumer Reports identified its top picks in a report earlier this year. Here are a few highlights.

### RING VIDEO DOORBELL

**Pros:** Ring runs on a rechargeable battery, making a hardwired doorbell unnecessary. It's also less than half the price of some competitors and offers excellent response time. Like many others, it works with internet-connected, voice-activated home assistants such as Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant.

**Cons:** Ring's lower cost results in a sacrifice in video quality and it offers no video storage. Expect to spend \$3 a month or \$100 a year to subscribe to Ring's Protect Plan, which provides a rolling 60 days of motion-triggered video clips.

### NEST HELLO VIDEO DOORBELL

**Pros:** CR gives Nest an excellent



RING/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Watch Out for Scams

Everyone wants to feel safe in their home, so when home security salespeople come knocking, their pitch can be convincing. The Federal Trade Commission, the nation's consumer protection agency, and your state attorney general urge you to use caution when you consider what security system sales agents have to offer. Learn more about the signs of a scam at the FTC's website at <https://bit.ly/1gWrcZJ>.

rating and calls it one of the best on the market for its response time, top video quality and an array of other features, including geofencing, person alerts and prerecorded messages

for when you can't answer the door. It also offers voice control with Google Assistant.

**Cons:** The magazine ranks it among the middle of its choices for its smart

features. It is also offered only in a hardwired version and doesn't run off batteries. Nest's rolling three hours of motion-triggered capability offers snapshots, not video clips. An optional subscription (\$5 monthly/\$300 annually) provides 24/7 continuous video recordings, facial recognition and monitoring zones.

### AUGUST DOORBELL CAM PRO

**Pros:** August ranks high in CR's report for its video quality, response time and free cloud video storage. That 24 hours of rolling video capability capture movement, not dead air, triggered by the camera's motion detector. A subscription (\$5 monthly/\$50 annually) increases video storage to a rolling 30 days. The doorbell is also compatible with Amazon Alexa and offers color night vision, courtesy of a built-in floodlight.

**Cons:** The Cam Pro's setbacks are a diminished smart features, lacking many of the options found in other video doorbells.

### RING VIDEO DOORBELL 2

**Pros:** The pricier upgrade to the popular basic Ring doorbell also offers a rechargeable battery, a good rating by CR for video quality and superb ratings for response time and its smart features. This doorbell also features voice control with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant, monitoring zones and alert schedules.

**Cons:** Like its cousin, the Ring 2 offers no free video storage. A subscription (\$3 monthly/\$100 annually) provides a rolling 60 days of motion-triggered video clips.





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#### HOMEWISE GLOSSARY

**Cloud on title:** An irregularity, possible claim, or encumbrance which, if valid, would affect or impair the title.

SOURCE: Homeclosing101.org

# AD SPACE