



IP Camera vs Analog Camera: Which Is Right for Your Business?

A practical worksheet to help you choose the right surveillance solution before spending money.

Quick Comparison

Feature	IP Cameras	Analog Cameras
Image Quality	★★★★★	★★★
Installation	Single network cable (PoE)	Video + power cable
Scalability	Excellent	Limited
Remote Access	Easy	Depends on DVR
AI Features	Excellent	Limited
Cost	Higher upfront	Lower upfront
Future Proof	Yes	Limited

Before You Buy

Tick what matters most.

- ☐ Lowest possible price
 - ☐ Best image quality
 - ☐ Easier installation
 - ☐ Expand later
 - ☐ AI detection
 - ☐ Mobile viewing
 - ☐ Long-term investment
 - ☐ Existing analog infrastructure
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Questions to Ask Yourself

1. Is this for:

- ☐ Home
 - ☐ Small Office
 - ☐ Business
 - ☐ Warehouse
 - ☐ Retail Store
 - ☐ Farm
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2. How many cameras do you need?

3. Will you want more cameras later?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
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4. Is good night vision important?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
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5. Do you need AI features?

- ☐ Human Detection
- ☐ Vehicle Detection
- ☐ Line Crossing
- ☐ Intrusion Detection
- ☐ Smart Playback



6. Remote viewing required?

☐ Yes

☐ No

My Recommendation Guide

Choose IP Cameras if:

- ✓ Better image quality matters
 - ✓ You want easier future upgrades
 - ✓ You are installing a new system
 - ✓ You want PoE
 - ✓ You want AI features
 - ✓ You want the cleanest installation
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Choose Analog Cameras if:

- ✓ Budget is extremely limited
 - ✓ You already own a working DVR
 - ✓ You only need basic recording
 - ✓ You don't mind extra cabling
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Installer Checklist

- ☐ Camera positions planned
- ☐ Cable routes planned
- ☐ Hard drive sized correctly
- ☐ UPS considered
- ☐ Network tested



- ☐ Mobile app configured
 - ☐ Firmware updated
 - ☐ Recording tested
 - ☐ Night vision tested
 - ☐ Motion detection tested
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Pro Tips

- 💡 Don't choose cameras based only on megapixels.
 - 💡 Good cabling is just as important as good cameras.
 - 💡 A quality switch can save hours of troubleshooting.
 - 💡 Standardising on one brand makes future maintenance much easier.
 - 💡 Always test remote viewing before leaving site.
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Anthony's Recommendation

If I'm installing a brand-new CCTV system today, I'm almost always recommending **IP cameras**. They're easier to install, easier to expand, produce better image quality, and offer features that make troubleshooting and maintenance much simpler.

Analog still has its place—especially for tight budgets or existing installations—but for most new deployments, IP is the solution I'd invest in.