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## How Long Do Security Cameras Keep Footage?

# HOW LONG DO SECURITY CAMERAS KEEP FOOTAGE?

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Security cameras are very important for keeping people safe, keeping an eye on things, and giving you peace of mind, whether you own a home or a business. People often ask, "[How long do security cameras keep footage?](#)"

There isn't a one-size-fits-all answer. The type of camera, how you store the footage, the recording settings, and the reason for the surveillance all play a role. Let's make it easy to understand with [Backstreet surveillance](#).

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# Types of Security Cameras and Their Storage Capacity

To know how long footage is kept, you need to know what kind of camera and system you are using. Let's take a look at some of the most common types in the United States.

## 1. Power over Ethernet Security Cameras

PoE security cameras are wired directly to a central NVR system.

People like these for their homes and businesses because they have a stable connection and record high-quality footage.

Storage Duration: 15 – 90 days (depending on NVR capacity)

Best For: Larger homes, retail stores, office buildings

Pros: Less interference, consistent power supply, higher video quality

## 2. Dome Security Cameras

Dome surveillance cameras are compact, ceiling-mounted cameras widely used in indoor environments such as offices, hotels, and lobbies.

Storage Duration: 7 – 30 days

Best For: Indoor monitoring, discreet surveillance

Pros: Vandal-resistant design, wide field of view

## 3. Pan-Tilt-Zoom Security Cameras

PTZ security cameras allow users to control camera movement remotely. These are typically used for wide-area surveillance, such as parking lots or warehouses.

Storage Duration: 15 – 60 days

Best For: Large outdoor areas, events, or locations needing dynamic viewing

Pros: Covers large areas, zoom capability for detail capture

## 4. Outdoor Night Vision Cameras

These cameras are specifically designed to capture footage in low-light or no-light conditions. They are equipped with infrared (IR) technology and are used extensively for home exteriors and outdoor business premises.

Storage Duration: 7 – 30 days

Best For: Driveways, backyards, storefront exteriors

Pros: Night vision, weatherproof, reliable for 24/7 surveillance

# Key Factors Affecting Footage Retention

There are a few things that affect how long do security cameras keep footage:

## 1. Recording Mode

Continuous Recording uses more storage but gives a full-time view of activities.

Motion-Activated Recording only records when movement is detected, saving storage and allowing longer retention times.

## 2. Video Resolution

Higher resolution = larger file size = faster storage consumption.

Resolution	File Size/hour (per camera)
720p	~300 MB
1080p	~500 MB – 1 GB
4K	~2 – 4 GB

## 3. Number of Cameras

The more cameras you have in your business security camera systems, the faster the storage will fill up. For instance, a system with four 1080p dome cameras recording all the time will use a lot less power than one with twelve 4K PTZ cameras.

## 4. Storage Type & Capacity

A 1TB hard drive can store approximately:

- 2 weeks of footage for 4 cameras (1080p, 24/7 recording)
- 4 weeks with motion-triggered recording

If you're using an **NVR surveillance system**, check the specs of your unit; it usually mentions max storage supported (e.g., 4TB, 8TB).

## Conclusion

So, how long do security cameras keep footage? It largely depends on your setup, your recording settings, and what you're using the system for.

- Businesses usually opt for 30–90 days.
- Homeowners might be fine with 7–30 days.
- High-security institutions may keep footage for several months or more.

Choosing the right combination of PoE cameras, NVR systems, or even an [outdoor night vision camera](#) ensures you get the ideal balance between performance and storage. If you're setting up a business surveillance system or upgrading your dome cameras at home, knowing your retention needs upfront helps you make better decisions.



**Read Also: [Best Budget Security Camera System in 2025: Affordable & Reliable](#)**