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Portable, Stick-On Security for a Rental — Nothing Screwed In

Cameras, sensors, and alarms that sit, stick, clamp, or plug in — nothing screwed in, and it all comes with you when you move.

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1 The Whole Plan on One Page

If you read only one page, read this. Here is the whole idea as a short checklist.

You can protect a rental without screwing a single thing into the wall. A whole category of security gear sits on a shelf, sticks on with adhesive, clamps onto a railing, or just plugs into an outlet. Battery cameras, peel-and-stick door sensors, portable alarms — all of it goes up with no holes and comes off clean when you move. Nothing is screwed in, and nothing is left behind.

1. Pick the one thing you most want to know — a door opening, a window, a view of a room.
2. Set a battery camera on a shelf, stick on a sensor, or plug in an indoor camera.
3. Install the brand's app and get alerts on your phone.
4. Aim any camera at your own space only, never a neighbor or a shared hallway.
5. Get written landlord approval for anything outside the unit.
6. At move-out, peel everything off slowly and pack it up.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Live view and alerts are usually free. Only saved video history that you can scroll back through tends to need a small monthly plan — and many renters skip it entirely.

The rest of this guide walks through each kind of stick-on security slowly — cameras, sensors, alarms — and how to make adhesive hold and release clean. Take it one page at a time.

THE IDEA

2 'Nothing Screwed In'

The whole idea behind this guide is right there in the title: nothing screwed in. Traditional security gear assumed you owned the place — cameras bolted to siding, sensors screwed into frames, a panel wired to the wall. None of that fits a rental. Portable, stick-on security flips it around. Every piece is designed to go up without a hole and come down without a trace.

- Sits on a surface — a battery camera on a shelf or windowsill.
- Sticks on with adhesive — a door sensor, a motion sensor, a small camera mount.
- Clamps on — a doorbell or camera that grips a railing with no fasteners.
- Plugs in — an indoor camera that needs only an outlet.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> When you shop, look for the words 'wire-free,' 'battery,' 'adhesive mount,' or 'no drill.' Those words tell you it belongs in a rental.

This isn't a watered-down version of real security. It's the same protection — cameras, sensors, alarms, alerts to your phone — just mounted in a way that respects a home you don't own.

WHY RENTERS

3 Why It's Perfect for Renters

Portable security suits renters for the same reasons it frustrates burglars: it's quick to put up, it goes anywhere, and it leaves nothing behind. You get peace of mind without risking your deposit or needing anyone's permission for the indoor pieces. And because it all comes with you, you're buying protection you keep, not an improvement to a landlord's property.

- No drilling, no wiring, no holes — nothing the landlord can object to for indoor gear.
- It's portable, so it moves to your next place, or even travels with you.
- The money isn't lost at move-out; you take every piece.
- You can start with one device and grow the system at your own pace.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Because stick-on security changes nothing about the building, the indoor pieces rarely need approval at all. Only cameras or a doorbell facing outside call for a written okay from the landlord.

For a renter who's felt that real home security was off-limits, this is the happy surprise: it was never off-limits, you just needed the stick-on version.

WHO IT'S FOR

4 Who This Is For

This guide is for any renter who wants to feel safer at home without altering the place. That includes people in apartments and condos, folks in a rented house or duplex, and seniors — on their own or in independent living — who want a little watchfulness and a way for family to help keep an eye out, gently.

- Anyone who wants to know if a door or window opens while they're out or asleep.
- People who feel uneasy alone and want a camera they can glance at.
- Renters who want proof on video if something goes wrong.
- Family who'd like to check on a parent's door or entry from afar, with permission.

> **TIP**
>
> Start with the one worry that keeps you up. If it's the back door, put a sensor there. If it's coming home to a dark apartment, start with a camera and a light. Solve the real fear first.

You don't need to be technical. If you can stick on a hook and tap a phone, you can set up everything here. And where a step feels like too much, that's what I'm here for.

THE KINDS

5 The Kinds of Stick-On Security

It helps to see the whole family of gear before picking a piece. There are really four kinds, and most renters end up with one or two, not all of them. Here's the lay of the land.

- Cameras: battery cameras that sit or stick, and indoor cameras that plug in.
- Sensors: peel-and-stick door, window, and motion sensors that alert your phone.
- Alarms: portable sirens and keypads, some with a self-contained little system.
- A doorbell: a battery video doorbell that clamps or sticks by your entry.

GOOD TO KNOW

You don't need every kind. A couple of door sensors and one camera cover most renters' real worries. Add more only if a specific concern calls for it.

The next pages take each kind in turn, so you can see what it does and whether it fits your situation. Then we'll talk about how to choose just what you need.

BATTERY CAMERAS

6 Battery Cameras That Just Sit There

The star of stick-on security is the battery camera. It carries its own rechargeable power, connects to your Wi-Fi, and needs no wiring at all. You can set it on a bookshelf, a windowsill, or a table, or stick it to a wall with an adhesive or magnetic mount. It watches, alerts your phone on motion, and lets you look in live from anywhere.

- Runs on a rechargeable battery — no cord, no wiring.
- Sits on any surface, or sticks up with an adhesive or magnetic base.
- Sends motion alerts and live video to your phone.
- Moves anywhere in seconds — indoors, or outside with landlord approval.

TIP

A battery camera set on a high shelf, angled down across a room or toward your own door, gives a wide view with zero mounting. It's the simplest possible start.

Because it's cordless and portable, you can reposition it anytime — move it to face a new worry, or pack it for a trip. That freedom is exactly what makes it right for renting.

MOUNTS

7 Adhesive and Magnetic Mounts

When you do want a camera up on a wall rather than on a shelf, two kinds of no-drill mount do the job. An adhesive mount is a small plate that sticks to the wall; the camera attaches to it. A magnetic mount is even handier — a metal or magnetic base sticks on, and the camera snaps to it and swivels freely.

- Adhesive mount: a stick-on plate the camera screws or clips onto.
- Magnetic mount: the camera snaps to a stuck-on magnetic base and aims easily.
- Both go up in minutes and peel off clean.
- Many battery cameras include a magnetic base in the box.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Adhesive holds a light camera well, but not a heavy one and not on a dusty or textured surface. Clean the spot with alcohol, press firmly, and let it cure before hanging the camera.

A magnetic mount is a renter's favorite because you can lift the camera off to recharge it and snap it right back, perfectly aimed, in a second. No tools, no holes, no fuss.

PLUG-IN CAMERAS

8 Indoor Plug-In Cameras

If a spot has an outlet nearby, an indoor plug-in camera is the easiest watcher of all — no batteries to recharge, ever. These are small, inexpensive, and simply sit on a shelf or table with their cord tucked to the outlet. They're ideal for keeping an eye on a main room, an entry, or a pet while you're out.

- Needs only a nearby outlet — no wiring, no battery chore.
- Small enough to sit on any shelf or table.
- Great for a living room, entryway, or keeping tabs on a pet.
- Often the least expensive camera a renter can buy.

TIP

Use an adhesive cable clip or two to tidy the cord down to the outlet. It keeps the look neat and peels off clean at move-out — no tape residue, no tripping.

Because there's no battery to manage, a plug-in camera is the most carefree option indoors. Point it at your own space, and it quietly does its job day and night without a thought from you.

CAMERA BRANDS

9 The Main Camera Brands

Several trusted brands make battery and plug-in cameras, and any of them works well in a rental. They differ mostly in app, price, and how recordings are handled. Here's the short list.

- Ring Stick Up Cam (battery): sits or sticks, indoor or outdoor, works with Alexa.
- Blink: inexpensive, long battery life, part of the Amazon family.
- Wyze: very low cost, simple app, good for a first camera.
- eufy: often stores video locally, reducing the need for a plan.
- Arlo: polished and well-regarded, with strong app features.

WATCH OUT

Match the camera to the phone and assistant you already use, and to whether you want to avoid a monthly fee. For no-fee leanings, look hard at eufy; for simplicity, Wyze or Blink.

Don't agonize — all of these do the core job of watching your space and alerting your phone. Pick one brand and keep your cameras in a single app for an easier life.

DOOR SENSORS

10 Peel-and-Stick Door & Window Sensors

A door or window sensor is one of the cheapest, most useful pieces of stick-on security there is. It's two small parts that stick on with adhesive — one on the frame, one on the moving door or sash. When they separate, your phone gets a gentle alert. You know the instant a door or window opens, whether you're asleep in the next room or away at work.

- Two small adhesive pieces: one on the frame, one on the door or window.
- Alerts your phone the moment they separate.
- Tiny and nearly invisible; peels off clean.
- Sold singly or in multi-packs by Ring, eufy, SimpliSafe, Wyze, and others.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Sensors are completely reversible and need no permission — they're just little adhesive tabs. They're the gentlest way to add real awareness to a rental.

Put one on each door you worry about and the windows a stranger could reach. A handful of sensors turns 'I wonder if everything's shut' into a glance at your phone.

MOTION SENSORS

11 Stick-On Motion Sensors

A motion sensor is a single small piece that sticks into a corner or on a wall and notices movement across a room or hallway. On its own it can alert your phone; paired with a smart bulb it can switch a light on. It's the piece that makes your space react — to warn you, or simply to light your way.

- Sticks in a corner and watches an area for movement.
- Can alert your phone, sound a chime, or trigger a light.
- Pairs beautifully with a smart bulb for a hands-free night light.
- Peels off clean like any adhesive piece.

TIP

Aim a motion sensor across a room rather than straight at a doorway — it catches movement more reliably when someone crosses its view sideways.

Indoors, a motion sensor is both a security tool and a convenience. The same little gadget that warns you of movement while you're away can light the hall for you on a midnight trip to the kitchen.

PORTABLE ALARMS

12 Portable Alarms and Keypads

If you want something that makes noise, not just a quiet phone alert, portable alarms fill that role. These range from a tiny battery siren that shrieks when a door opens, to a small keypad-and-siren set you arm and disarm like a real alarm system — all stick-on or tabletop, nothing wired.

- A small door or window alarm: a loud screech when it's opened, battery-powered.
- A stick-on keypad: arm and disarm your sensors with a code.
- A portable siren: sounds off loudly to startle an intruder and alert neighbors.
- Travel alarms: a wedge or door-handle alarm you can carry to a hotel.

GOOD TO KNOW

A loud local alarm does two useful things even with no monitoring service: it startles an intruder into leaving, and it alerts anyone nearby. Noise alone is a real deterrent.

For many renters, a couple of sensors plus a loud alarm is all the 'system' they want — no contract, no monitoring fee, just an immediate racket if a door opens when it shouldn't.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

A DOORBELL

13 A Video Doorbell That Clamps On

A battery video doorbell belongs in this family too, since it's another no-wiring, stick-on or clamp-on piece. It lets you see and talk to whoever's at your door from your phone, and it mounts with an adhesive plate or a clamp that grips a railing or brick — no holes. It pairs naturally with a camera and sensors for a fuller picture of your entry.

- Battery-powered, so it needs no doorbell wiring.
- Mounts with an adhesive plate or a no-drill railing or brick clamp.
- See and talk to visitors from anywhere; aim it at your own door only.
- Brands include Ring, Google Nest (battery), Wyze, eufy, and Blink.

> **TIP**
>
> Because a doorbell faces outside, get your landlord's written okay first, and point it strictly at your own entry — not down a shared hallway.

This guide keeps the doorbell short on purpose. For the full walk-through — brands, no-drill mounts, charging, and chimes — see 'A Video Doorbell for Renters — No Wiring, No Holes.'

STARTER KITS

14 Starter Kits and Small Systems

If you'd rather buy a matched set than piece things together, several brands sell renter-friendly starter kits — a hub, a keypad, a couple of sensors, maybe a motion sensor, all in one box and all stick-on. These let you build a tidy little system under one app, and expand it later by adding more sensors.

- SimpliSafe and Ring Alarm offer peel-and-stick sensor kits with a keypad.
- Everything pairs to one hub and one app, so it's cohesive.
- Optional professional monitoring exists, usually for a monthly fee — but it's your choice.
- You can run the whole kit self-monitored, with alerts to your own phone, for free.

GOOD TO KNOW

Monitoring — where a service watches your alarm and can call for help — is optional on these kits. Plenty of renters run them self-monitored, getting alerts themselves and paying nothing monthly.

A kit is the easy path if you know you want several pieces. If you're not sure yet, start with a single sensor or camera and add a kit later — nothing's wasted either way.

CHOOSING

15 Choosing What You Actually Need

The biggest mistake is buying more than you need. Good security isn't about the most gadgets; it's about covering the one or two real worries you actually have. Start by naming them, then match a piece to each.

- Worried a door or window could open unnoticed? Door and window sensors.
- Want to see what's happening in a room while you're out? A camera.
- Want a loud deterrent? A portable alarm or a siren.
- Want to see and screen visitors? A battery doorbell.

TIP

Write down your top two worries and buy only for those. You can always add more, but an apartment full of unused gadgets helps no one and just clutters the app.

For most renters, two or three door sensors and one well-placed camera cover nearly everything that matters. Begin there, live with it, and let real experience tell you what, if anything, to add.

PLACEMENT

16 Where to Place a Camera

Where you put a camera matters as much as which one you buy. The goal is a clear view of the space you care about, good light, and — always — only your own space in frame. A little thought here gets you useful footage instead of a blurry corner of ceiling.

- Place it high, angled down, for the widest view of a room or entry.
- Point it toward the door or window you want to watch, not into bright glare.
- Keep it back from a window if it faces out — glass causes glare and reflections at night.
- Frame your own space only; never a neighbor's door, window, or the shared hall.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> A camera aimed at a window at night often sees only its own reflection and the infrared glare off the glass. Angle it across the room or set it right against the glass to avoid that.

Spend a minute checking the live view from where you plan to place it before you stick anything down. Moving a shelf camera is free; peeling and re-sticking a mount is a chore.

STICK IT RIGHT

17 Getting Adhesive to Hold

Almost every complaint about stick-on gear falling down comes back to rushed adhesive. Done properly, adhesive holds for years and still peels off clean. The whole trick is a clean surface, a firm press, and patience while it cures before you hang any weight on it.

1. Wipe the spot with rubbing alcohol and let it dry completely — no dust, no grease.
2. Peel the backing and press the mount or sensor firmly for a good thirty seconds.
3. Let it cure — an hour for light sensors, longer for anything heavier.
4. Only then attach the camera or close the sensor's two halves.
5. On a cold or damp day, warm the surface first and allow extra cure time.

WATCH OUT

Freshly painted walls are the weak spot — paint needs weeks to fully cure, and adhesive can pull it off or simply not stick. On new paint, favor a shelf-set camera over a stuck-on mount.

Treat adhesive with a little respect and it becomes the renter's most trusted tool: strong enough to rely on, gentle enough to leave no mark behind.

INSTALL A CAMERA

18

Setting Up a Battery Camera

Setting up a battery camera is quick, and it's easiest to do the app part indoors near your router before you place the camera. Charge it first, then pair it, then set it where you want it.

1. Charge the camera fully with its cable before anything else.
2. Install the brand's app and create an account with a strong password and two-step sign-in.
3. Choose 'add a device' and follow the prompts to pair it over your Wi-Fi (2.4 GHz for most).
4. Name it clearly, like 'Living Room,' and check the live view.
5. Set it on a shelf or attach it to its adhesive or magnetic mount, aimed at your own space.

TIP

Confirm the live view and motion alerts work from where you'll place it before you commit the mount. It's far easier to adjust now than after the adhesive has cured.

Once it's paired, named, and aimed, you're done. From then on it watches quietly and buzzes your phone when something moves in its view.

INSTALL A SENSOR

19 Putting Up a Door Sensor

A door or window sensor goes up in a couple of minutes. The two pieces must end up close together when the door is shut and separate when it opens, so a little care lining them up is the whole job.

1. Pair the sensor in the app first, while it's in your hand.
2. Clean the frame and the door or sash where the two pieces will go.
3. Stick the larger piece on the frame and the smaller magnet on the moving part, lined up close.
4. Make sure they nearly touch when closed and part when opened.
5. Open and close the door to confirm the app registers both states.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The two halves need to sit within a small gap of each other when the door is shut — usually well under an inch. If the app doesn't register 'closed,' nudge them a touch closer.

Test it a few times by opening and closing, watching the app. Once it reliably shows open and closed, that door is covered, and you can move on to the next.

THE APP

20 The App and Alerts

The app is the heart of your little system — it's where alerts arrive, where you watch live, and where you tune how much it tells you. A few minutes setting it up well means alerts you trust instead of a stream of noise you learn to ignore.

1. Turn on notifications in the app, and allow them in your phone's settings too.
2. Give the app a distinct alert sound so you know what it is.
3. Set motion zones on cameras to watch only what matters.
4. Group your devices so you can arm or check them together.
5. Invite trusted family to view, if you'd like, and set their access level.

TIP

An alert you trust is an alert you'll act on. If you get so many that you stop looking, tighten the motion zones and sensitivity until a buzz almost always means something real.

Don't try to master every setting at once. Get alerts working and the motion zones sensible; the fancier features will make sense once you've lived with the basics for a few days.

CHARGING

21

Charging and Battery Life

Battery cameras and some alarms need occasional charging, which is the one small chore of a cordless system. How often depends on how much motion they see, the weather, and the model — from several weeks to a few months is typical. The app shows the battery level and warns you in good time.

- Recharge with the included cable when the app says the battery is low.
- A magnetic mount lets you lift the camera off and snap it back after charging.
- Some cameras take a swappable battery pack — keep a charged spare for no downtime.
- Trim motion zones to reduce needless wake-ups and stretch battery life.

GOOD TO KNOW

Cold weather drains batteries faster. Through an Ohio winter, an outdoor camera may need charging more often than in summer. That's normal battery behavior, not a fault.

If the charging chore sounds like a bother, lean on indoor plug-in cameras where you have outlets — they never need charging at all. Match the gear to how much upkeep you want.

WI-FI

22 Wi-Fi and Range

Every camera and most sensors talk over your Wi-Fi, so a solid signal is the foundation. Cameras especially need decent Wi-Fi where they sit, since they're pushing video. A camera at the far edge of your range is the most common cause of missed alerts and stuttery video.

- Most devices pair on the 2.4 GHz band, which reaches farther through walls.
- Check the signal strength the app reports after placing a camera.
- A weak signal means moving the router closer or adding a mesh node.
- Sensor kits often use their own hub signal, which reaches well on its own.

> **WATCH OUT**
> A camera that keeps going offline is almost always a Wi-Fi reach problem, not a broken camera. Fix the signal before you suspect the device.

If a far room is a Wi-Fi dead spot, a single mesh node near it usually solves everything. Bill's Home Tech has separate guides on apartment Wi-Fi and mesh if your signal needs stretching.

NIGHT & MOTION

23 Night Vision and Motion Zones

Security gear earns much of its keep after dark, so night vision matters. Nearly every camera switches automatically to an infrared night mode for a clear black-and-white picture, with no visible light. Motion zones, meanwhile, decide which part of the view triggers an alert — set well, they give you alerts worth trusting.

- Automatic infrared night vision gives a clear image in the dark.
- Motion zones let you watch your doorway and ignore a busy window or passing hall.
- Lower the sensitivity if small movements or headlights keep triggering alerts.
- Some cameras can tell a person from a pet or a passing car.

GOOD TO KNOW

Tightening motion zones does double duty: fewer nuisance alerts for you, and it keeps the camera's attention on your own space rather than a neighbor's.

Spend ten minutes on motion zones when you set up, then revisit after a day. It's the single setting that most decides whether your camera is a help or an annoyance.

FREE VS PAID

24 Live View Free, History Paid

As with doorbells, most security cameras give you the real-time features for free and reserve saved video history for a paid plan. Knowing exactly where that line falls for your brand keeps you from paying for something you don't need.

- Usually free: live view any time, and real-time motion alerts.
- Usually a small monthly fee: recorded clips you can scroll back through for days.
- eufy and some others store video locally, often avoiding the fee.
- Some brands record nothing without a plan; others give a little free history.

WATCH OUT

Decide honestly whether you need to review old footage, or just to look in live and get alerts. Many renters are happy on the free tier and never pay a monthly fee at all.

Plans and prices change, so check each brand before you buy. You can always start free and add a plan later if you find you'd like the saved history.

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AIMING

25

Keep It on Your Own Space

This is the most important rule in the whole guide, so it gets its own page: aim every camera at your own space only. Your door, your window, your room. The moment a camera captures a shared hallway, a parking lot of neighbors, or someone else's door or window, you can run into lease rules, HOA rules, and local privacy law.

- Point cameras at your own entry, rooms, and windows — nothing beyond.
- Use the app's privacy masking to black out any neighbor's area in the frame.
- Recording audio can carry stricter rules than video in some places — be careful near shared space.
- A camera in a shared hallway almost always sees space that isn't yours.

WATCH OUT

Pointing a camera at a shared or common area, or a neighbor's unit, may break your lease or local law. Laws vary by state and town, so keep cameras on your own space and ask if you're unsure.

Being a good neighbor and following the rules point the same way here. Keep your eyes on your own home, and you stay on the right side of both the law and the people next door.

INDOOR PRIVACY

26

Indoor Cameras and Your Own Privacy

An indoor camera watches your own space, which is fine — but it's worth a thought for your own privacy and comfort, especially if you share the place or have visitors. A few simple habits keep an indoor camera a help rather than an intrusion on your own household.

- Place indoor cameras in common areas — a living room or entry — not bedrooms or bathrooms.
- Many indoor cameras have a physical shutter or a privacy mode that blinds the lens when you're home.

- Tell housemates and regular guests a camera is present; it's courteous and often required.
- Use the privacy shutter or disable recording when you're home, if that feels better.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> A camera with a physical privacy shutter lets you cover the lens entirely when you're home, so you're never wondering whether it's watching you in your own living room.

Indoor cameras are most useful pointed at an entry or a main room while you're out. Used that way, they protect you without ever feeling like they're watching you.

LEASE & HOA

27 Lease, HOA, and Common Areas

Indoor stick-on gear rarely needs anyone's permission, since it changes nothing and touches nothing of the building's. The pieces to clear first are anything facing outside or mounted where others can see it — an exterior camera or a doorbell — and anything at all in a condo with an HOA.

- Indoor sensors and cameras: generally no approval needed; they alter nothing.
- Exterior cameras and doorbells: get the landlord's written okay first.
- In a condo, read the HOA rules, the CC&Rs, for anything on doors or common areas.
- Never mount anything in a shared hallway or common space without permission.

> **WATCH OUT**
> This isn't legal advice. Rules vary by state and by your lease, and a condo adds HOA rules on top. When in doubt, check your lease and ask your landlord or board in writing.

A two-line note to your landlord describing an outside camera — no wiring, no holes, aimed at your own door, removed clean at move-out — almost always earns an easy yes. Bill's Home Tech has a separate guide on HOA tech rules.

ACCOUNT PRIVACY

28 Who Can See the Feed

Your cameras are tied to your own account with your own password, so no one sees your feed unless you share it. Keeping that account locked down is the single most important thing you can do for your security and peace of mind.

- Use a strong, unique password on each security account, and turn on two-step sign-in.
- Share a camera's view only with people you trust, and set their access level.
- You can remove anyone's access at any time, with a tap.
- If you inherit a device from a prior tenant, factory-reset it so they lose all access.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> If a landlord provides a camera, ask who controls the account — you should never rent a home where someone else can watch inside your unit. Bill's Home Tech has a separate guide on device and account privacy.

Think of the account as the only key to your cameras. You decide who gets a copy, and you can always take it back. A strong password and two-step sign-in keep everyone else out.

POWER & WI-FI OUT

29 When Power or Wi-Fi Drops

It's worth knowing how your gear behaves during an outage, so nothing catches you off guard. The short version: battery pieces keep running on their own power, but without Wi-Fi they can't send alerts to your phone until service returns.

- Battery cameras and sensors keep running on their battery, but can't alert you without Wi-Fi.
- A plug-in camera goes dark during a power cut and returns when power does.
- A local alarm siren that's battery-powered will still sound even with the internet down.
- When Wi-Fi returns, devices usually reconnect on their own within a few minutes.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> A loud, self-contained door alarm is reassuring precisely because it needs no internet to do its job — it screeches the instant a door opens, outage or not.

Knowing this ahead of time turns an outage from a worry into a shrug. Most gear simply picks back up on its own once power and Wi-Fi return.

FALSE ALARMS

30 Taming False Alerts

A flood of false alerts is the fastest way to stop trusting your system, so it's worth taming early. Most false alarms come from a camera watching too much, or a sensor set too touchy. A little tuning turns a noisy system into one you can rely on.

1. Tighten camera motion zones to your own doorway or the room, not a window or hall.
2. Lower motion sensitivity if passing cars, headlights, or shadows trigger alerts.
3. Turn on person detection if your camera offers it, to ignore pets and cars.
4. Reposition a camera that's catching a busy street or a swaying plant.
5. Watch it for a day and keep adjusting until alerts feel meaningful.

> **TIP**
> The aim is an alert you believe. When your phone buzzes and you know it probably matters, you'll actually look — and that's the whole point of having the system.

Give it a day of tuning when you first set up. Fifteen minutes of adjusting beats weeks of ignoring a system that cried wolf.

ON TRIPS

31 Taking It on Trips

A happy bonus of portable security is that it travels. Because nothing is screwed in, you can take a camera or a door alarm to a hotel, a rental cabin, or a relative's spare room, and have a little of your own watchfulness wherever you sleep. It's security that isn't tied to one address.

- A battery camera packs in a bag and sets up anywhere with Wi-Fi.
- A portable door-wedge or handle alarm adds security to any hotel room.
- A small plug-in camera watches a vacation rental while you're out sightseeing.
- Everything comes home with you, same as it left.

> **TIP**
>
> A simple battery door alarm or door wedge is a traveler's friend — it turns any unfamiliar door into one that screeches if opened in the night. Light, cheap, and reassuring.

You bought the gear for your rental, but it's yours to use anywhere. That portability is the quiet upside of choosing stick-on security over anything bolted down.

SIMPLE FOR SENIORS

32 Simple for Seniors, Easy for Family

Stick-on security is a gentle fit for a senior living alone, and for the family who worry a little from afar. The goal isn't a fortress; it's a couple of pieces that answer a real worry and let a grown child help keep watch without taking over a parent's home.

- A door sensor tells both the senior and a trusted family member if a door opens unexpectedly.
- A shared camera view lets family check in gently, with the parent's permission.
- A loud door alarm reassures someone nervous about a stranger at the door.
- Keep it to one or two pieces that solve the actual concern — no more.

GOOD TO KNOW

The parent should stay the account owner, with family given shared access they can see and manage. It's looking-out, not taking-over, and it keeps the senior in charge of their own home.

If you're setting this up for a parent, let their real worries guide it. Cover the door they fret about, the entry they want to see — and leave the rest. Simple is kinder than thorough here.

TROUBLESHOOT

33 When a Device Goes Offline

When a camera or sensor drops offline or won't set up, the cause is almost always Wi-Fi reach or a drained battery, not a broken device. Work through this short list before you suspect the gadget itself — it fixes the great majority of problems.

1. Check the battery level in the app, and charge it if it's low.
2. Check the signal strength the app reports — weak means move the router closer or add a mesh node.
3. Confirm the device is on the 2.4 GHz band, not the 5 GHz one.
4. Restart the router: unplug it for thirty seconds, plug it back in, wait a few minutes.
5. If it still won't connect, remove it in the app and add it again fresh.

GOOD TO KNOW

A device that worked fine and suddenly goes offline is very often just a dead battery or a router that needs a restart. Start there before you worry it's broken.

If it still misbehaves after all that, it's worth a real look at your Wi-Fi coverage where the device sits. That's a common fix I handle, and it's usually the network, not the gadget.

COMMON WORRIES

34 Common Worries, Answered

A few questions come up with nearly every renter considering stick-on security. Here are plain answers to the ones I hear most.

- Will it damage my walls? No — chosen right, it sits, sticks, clamps, or plugs in, and comes off clean.
- Do I need the landlord's permission? Indoor pieces, rarely; anything facing outside, yes, in writing.
- Do I have to pay monthly? No — live view and alerts are usually free; only saved history tends to cost.
- Can someone hack my camera? Use a strong password and two-step sign-in and the risk is very small.
- Can I take it when I move? Yes — that's the whole point; it all packs up and comes with you.

> **TIP**
>
> If one worry is holding you back, it's usually smaller than it feels. Call and talk it through — I'd rather answer a question than have you go without the peace of mind.

There's no wrong pace and no silly question. Start with the one piece that quiets your biggest worry, and add more only if you decide you want it.

MOVE-OUT

35 Peeling It Off Clean

Moving out with stick-on security is simple, because nothing was ever fastened to the building. A little care with the de-registering and the adhesive, and you leave the place exactly as you found it.

1. In each app, sign out and factory-reset every device, then remove it from your account.
2. Peel adhesive mounts and sensors off slowly, pulling the stretch tab straight down.
3. Unclamp any railing or brick mounts — they leave no trace.
4. Gather plug-in cameras and tidy away their cable clips.

5. Pack cameras, sensors, alarms, hubs, and mounts for the next place or your next trip.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Don't skip the factory reset and de-registering. A camera still tied to your old account is a privacy risk for you and a nuisance for the next tenant. Reset every device before it leaves.

Done this way, move-out is painless: your whole system in a box, your deposit safe, and walls that look like nothing was ever there. Bill's Home Tech has a full move-out tech checklist if you'd like the complete rundown.

FINISH THE JOB

36

Finish the Job Soon

You now know the whole picture: battery cameras, plug-in cameras, peel-and-stick sensors, portable alarms, and how to make adhesive hold and release clean. The only step left is to begin, and the kindest way is to start with the one worry that weighs on you most. Cover that this weekend, and you've made real progress.

If any step gives you pause — choosing between brands, getting a camera to hold a strong Wi-Fi signal in a far room, or setting up gentle shared access so family can help watch a parent's door — that's exactly what I help neighbors with across Portage County. My assistant Sophie can get you on the calendar, and no question is too small.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> You do not have to remember all of it. You just have to remember you can call. Friendly, in-home help, and I come to you — (330) 200-8042.

Real peace of mind in a rental, with nothing screwed in and nothing left behind, is one of the best things you can give yourself. Start with one piece. Finish the job. Then rest a little easier in a home that's watching out for you.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task.

I want to...	Do this...
Watch a room with no holes	Set a battery camera on a shelf, or plug in an indoor camera
Know if a door or window opens	Stick on peel-and-stick door and window sensors
Add a loud deterrent	Use a portable battery alarm or siren — no wiring, no contract
Make adhesive hold	Clean with alcohol, press firmly, let it cure before hanging anything
Avoid a monthly fee	Live view and alerts are usually free; skip the plan unless you need saved clips
Respect privacy and the law	Aim every camera at your own space only; mask any neighbor's area
Keep the feed private	Strong password, two-step sign-in; reset any device from a prior tenant
Move out clean	Factory-reset, remove from your account, peel adhesive slowly, take it all
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

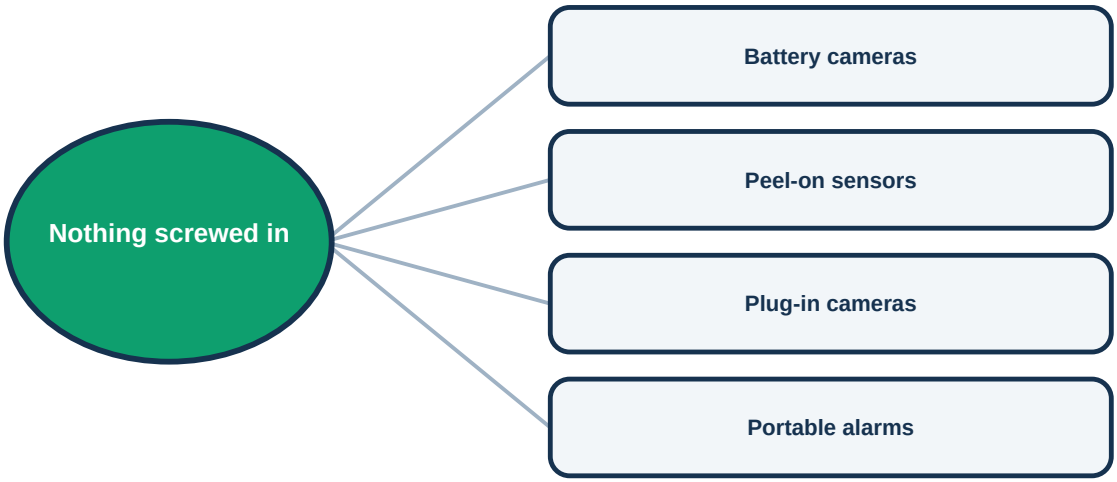


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Four Calm Steps

Do one at a time — this guide walks each one slowly.

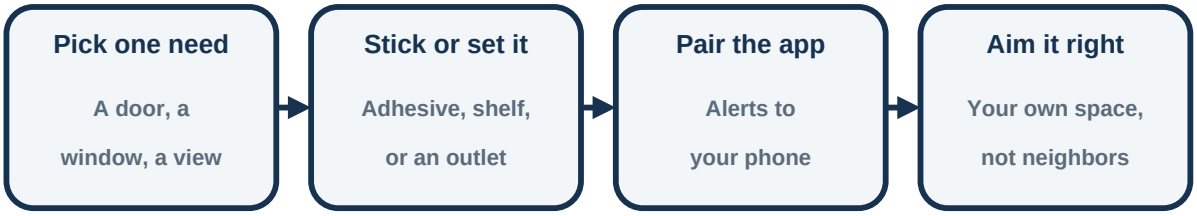


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

Call or text (330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com

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