

2026 Professional CCTV Installation Checklist

Created by Wire Wizards— Certified Security Installers

Section 1: Pre-Installation Site Survey (Must Do)

- Map all entry points, blind spots, and high-value areas
- Decide home vs business priorities (deterrence vs evidence)
- Calculate required camera count (1 per main entry + 1 per high-risk area)
- Test natural and artificial lighting conditions
- Plan power backup (UPS for NVR and PoE switch)

Section 2: Camera Placement Rules (Non-Negotiable)

- Mount cameras at **8–10 feet high** (tamper-resistant + clear face view)
- Use **10–30° downward angle** for optimal facial recognition
- Ensure **20–30% field-of-view overlap** between every camera
- Avoid pointing directly at bright lights or sun to prevent glare
- Cover: front/back doors, driveways, garages, side paths, cash registers, loading docks

Section 3: Cabling & Equipment Standards

- Use **pure copper Cat6** cable (never cheap CCA) for PoE
- Choose weatherproof IP67+ 4K cameras with built-in AI
- Install central UPS battery backup to prevent blackout loss
- Leave 2–3 ft service loops at each camera and NVR
- Use hidden routing (cavity drops or conduit) for clean finish

Section 4: System Setup & Testing

- Update all firmware immediately after installation
- Configure smart AI alerts (person/vehicle/package only – ignore wind/rain)
- Set recording schedule and storage (30–90 days typical)
- Perform full day + night walkthrough testing
- Test remote app access from outside the property

Section 5: Legal & Handover

- Install visible compliant signage
- Avoid audio recording in private areas without consent
- Provide client app training and system documentation
- Schedule annual maintenance check

Pro Tips from Our Team

- Poor lighting causes ~70% of useless night footage — always add supplemental IR or white light where needed.
- 20–30% overlap eliminates blind spots that criminals exploit.
- Professional installation reduces rework costs dramatically compared to DIY.