

Bumps in the Night!!!!

Tools of the Trade

Digital Video Recorder (DVR) System



DVR System

As paranormal investigators we are in search of data to show that the paranormal does exist, or at the very least answer some questions that both we and our clients might have. There are many methods we use to document an investigation, but the two main methods are with video and audio data. One of the techniques used to capture video data is using an “off the shelf” video surveillance system such as a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) with external Infrared Camera (IRs) attached to it.

The DVR systems used are very similar to what are used by department and grocery stores to monitor their stores and parking lots. The main difference is that they connect the cameras in a permanent stationary position, which is how they are designed to function. We however use them on tripods to give us a temporary stationary position.

The cameras we use are the day/night type that can film in the daylight and in the complete darkness. We have many different types, styles and varieties of these cameras. We have some that can film in complete darkness for up to 80 feet and some that can film up to 132. They come in distance ratings from 60 to 200+. Keep in mind you don't want too many long range cameras if you are doing home investigations because for smaller rooms the long range varieties will wash out on the walls.

The cameras are connected to the DVR using cables or via wireless technology. The type of cable will depend on the type of DVR and the distance in which the camera will be from the DVR system. These cables come in various lengths from 25' to 300'. The type we use in of the BNC variety with the power and data connection being supplied by the same cable. This technology is called Siamese cables.

We use tripods in various sizes, shapes, varieties, etc. We have some that can sit on a table top and some that will elevate the camera to 7' from the ground/floor. We have some, called Gorilla, that have flexible legs and can literally be wrapped around a stationary item.

Some people ask us why we use IR cameras and why we investigate at night. The primary reason is the theory that more paranormal experiences are document in the IR frequency of the light spectrum. These IR cameras work better at night. Thus the use of them at night. Some ask is it because activity is more at night. We can't be sure of that, since we've been able to document activity at various times of the day and night.

Please note this entire setup was not designed for setup and tear down over and over again, but rather to be installed once and remain installed. So make sure to be careful with your components to assist with a longer life, which will keep your costs down.



IR Camera Setup