



HDB Doorbell Cameras and CCTV: Check Before Installing

Description

A video doorbell can solve a narrow security problem, but the wrong mounting point can also record a neighbour’s doorway or interfere with a fire-rated entrance door. An HDB door camera should be installed only after the resident checks the current HDB conditions for smart door devices and CCTV cameras. The camera should solve a defined security problem, avoid unnecessary capture of neighbours’ doors and interiors, and leave fire-rated door safety features intact.

For an hdb resident considering a video doorbell or corridor-facing camera, the immediate job is to solve a real security problem without creating an unauthorised installation, excessive surveillance or unsafe door alteration.

A peephole device stays wholly within the door: the quick answer

Situation	What changes
A peephole device stays wholly within the door	Check the current HDB condition and do not damage required fire-rated components
A camera will project into or attach to common property	Obtain the required approval before installation
The field of view captures a neighbour’s doorway or home interior	Reposition, mask or abandon the installation
The concern is an immediate threat or crime	Use the appropriate Police report and preserve evidence; do not rely only on a new gadget

The first design decision is not brand or resolution. It is the security event that needs evidence: parcel loss, repeated tampering, an immediate threat or something else. A narrow purpose supports a narrow field of view, sensible notifications and a defined end date for retention.

Map the lens before drilling. Stand at the proposed mounting point and mark the opposite flat, lift lobby, stairwell and common corridor that could enter frame. If the useful scene cannot be captured without recording a neighbour's doorway or interior, repositioning or abandoning the device may be the responsible result.

Define the incident pattern

A camera is not a general answer to every noise, delivery or neighbour concern. The controlling details used here are on [HDB smart door devices and CCTV cameras](#).

List the events, dates, locations and evidence gap it is meant to address.

Check the installation boundary

The flat door, grille and common corridor can involve different HDB or Town Council controls.

Draw the exact mounting point, wiring route and device projection before buying.

Protect fire-door function

HDB says a fire-rated entrance door's closer is a safety device that must not be removed.

Do not drill, wedge or reroute equipment in a way that defeats self-closing operation.

Minimise the field of view

Capturing a whole corridor or a neighbour's interior can exceed the security purpose.

Use privacy masks and the narrowest angle that covers the relevant threshold.

Control recordings

Faces, routines and visitor movements can create sensitive evidence even in a household setting. The related condition is explained in [HDB gate and door maintenance guide](#).

Use strong passwords, short retention and restricted account access.

Inform affected household members

A shared account or alert stream can expose footage to more people than necessary.

Name who may view, export or share clips and why.

Review after installation

Camera angle, alerts and storage can drift after software updates or physical knocks.

Run a monthly check and remove the device if the purpose ends.

How the case works in practice

A resident worried about parcel loss does not need a lens pointed at the opposite flat's doorway. A threshold-focused angle, motion zone and short retention can preserve the parcel record with less unrelated capture.

Two records that make the housing choice clearer

- a problem-location-evidence test that prevents unnecessary surveillance
- a privacy-minimising field-of-view and footage-retention configuration

Test the plan under real conditions

A privacy mask should be tested against real movement, not a still image. Walk the corridor in both directions, open the opposite door if the neighbour agrees, and review what the camera saves when a delivery is placed at the threshold. A lens can show little in live view yet capture more when its wide-angle mode, night mode or cloud processing is active. Save the final settings screen and date.

Notifications also affect proportionality. Continuous motion alerts can train a household to ignore the very event the device was installed to detect. Set a zone and sensitivity around the relevant threshold, then review a day of ordinary traffic. If normal neighbours, lift users and passers-by dominate the feed, the mounting point or purpose needs reconsideration rather than simply increasing retention.

When an incident occurs, export the shortest clip that shows it and preserve the original timestamp. Write down who accessed or shared it. Do not add accusations, facial labels or edited captions before giving it to the proper channel. If the concern is continuing harassment, threat or crime, a camera record can support a report, but the reporting route and immediate safety plan remain separate decisions.

One more check before acting

Building management boundaries matter at the threshold. The flat owner should distinguish the door or gate from the common corridor, wall, ceiling and shared electrical route. A battery device may avoid wiring but still project into common space; a wired unit may add a cable or power issue. Ask the Town Council or HDB about the exact proposed installation instead of presenting only a product brochure. Renters should also obtain the owner's permission and plan removal without damage. The final photograph should show the device, mounting, field of view and unobstructed door closer, creating a record of the approved or compliant configuration rather than merely proving purchase.

Review the setup again after a neighbour changes, a renovation alters the corridor or a firmware update changes detection zones. The original purpose and minimisation settings should still be true under the

new conditions.

Door integrity is a separate safety check. A video doorbell does not justify defeating the closer or altering a fire-rated entrance door in a way that stops it operating as intended. Ask about mounting and wiring before purchase, while the device can still be changed without sunk-cost pressure.

Treat exported clips as evidence, not social content. Limit account access, use strong authentication, keep only what serves the stated purpose and share footage only through an appropriate reporting route. A security device can create a second privacy or harassment problem when unrelated movement is circulated.

Before you commit

- Write the specific security problem
- Check the current HDB installation condition
- Mark mounting and wiring points
- Preserve fire-door operation
- Minimise and mask the view
- Secure accounts and retention
- Review the setup monthly

HDB, Town Council, fire-safety and privacy requirements can depend on the device and location. Seek case-specific approval where required.

Continue the task on LBRD

For an adjacent decision, [check the device cybersecurity label](#). You can also [run a separate home fire-alarm placement check](#).

Date Created

13/08/2026

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