



Solar powered outdoor surveillance cameras

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Solar-powered security cameras and systems are ideal for outdoor locations. These can be sheds, fields, and parking lots where you need surveillance but can't run power cables.

My top pick as the best solar-powered security camera is the Eufy 2K Bullet Security Camera. It has a solar panel built into the enclosure and a spotlight for active deterrence.

The best solar-powered security camera on our list is the Eufy 2K bullet security camera. It is a wire-free device that relies on rechargeable batteries and solar panels for power. Hence, there are no DC/AC power options.

The Reolink Argus 3 Pro is a 4MP wire-free camera with solar and DC power options. The solar panel needs to be purchased separately, and it is only compatible with Reolink solar-powered cameras such as this Argus 3 Pro and Argus 2.

Swann's CoreCam wireless includes a 2.8W solar panel and a 6000mAh rechargeable battery. Therefore, with motion-detected recording, it can power itself for a long time.

Our final entry on this list is the Blink Outdoor 3 Camera Kit. This bundle includes three Blink 2MP security cameras (with in-built solar panels) and a Sync Module 2.

Solar-powered cameras will always be placed outdoors. Therefore, most of them usually include weatherproof enclosures with a minimum IP65 rating. To be on the safe side, we recommend noting down the IP rating of a security camera before committing to a purchase. There's no need to worry about the IP rating of the solar panel because they are weatherproof by design.

Most consumer-friendly solar-powered security cameras cannot incorporate high-capacity rechargeable batteries. Therefore, to make sure that the camera can function for long periods on a single charge, the system favors motion-activated recording instead of continuous recording. So if you need 24/7 recording, we recommend picking out a high-end solar-powered camera (which can be very expensive and only meant for remote locations) or switching to a wired option with support for an NVR.

Fortunately, most solar-powered cameras include a MicroSD card slot with a minimum of 16GB storage. This method of local storage is reliable but is only recommended as a backup solution. It is more convenient to include cloud storage because most brands limit certain features without it. These include access to the mobile app for remote viewing, receiving alerts, and managing the camera settings. The only disadvantage is that cloud services are expensive since they require a monthly subscription.



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The solar panel's capabilities are also something that many users will have to consider. Most small-scale cameras include smaller solar panels that (with the help of a rechargeable battery) won't be able to maintain the security camera indefinitely. Besides, solar panels work best when there is no shade; hence, their power generation abilities are not always consistent. We recommend picking out a good spot for the solar panels such that it has enough sun (especially at noon) and aren't too far from the camera.

In a solar-powered camera, the rechargeable battery will be doing most of the heavy lifting. We recommend going for a rechargeable battery that can last up to a minimum of four weeks on a single charge. (With motion-activated recording.) Otherwise, you will have to keep recharging the battery every week or so, especially if the solar panels couldn't generate enough power to compensate for the loss.

Solar-powered security cameras tend to be more expensive than their wired-only counterparts. However, the wire-free design makes these devices more reliable against power failure.

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