

Guest Article from Money.com: The Best Home Security Systems for 2020

With technology continuously evolving and improving, home security systems today offer a wide range of protection and coverage options. Modern systems have features ranging from in-home motion and heat sensors to video doorbells and more, as well as apps and smart home integration that lets you monitor your home remotely.

Home security systems can range from basic with just door sensors, to comprehensive with fire and smoke sensors, glass sensors, and much more.

Many home security systems now feature smart home integration, allowing you to control lights, door locks, and more from your smartphone.

Some systems require professional installation, while others offer user-friendly do-it-yourself (DIY) installation. Before using a professional, make sure to know all the costs associated with the installation.

Your homeowner's insurance may offer you a discount for having a home security system. Contact your insurance provider to

see if you qualify.

In choosing the best home security systems of 2020, we evaluated each system using the following factors:

Security systems can range from basic to highly complex. We selected companies that offer a wide variety of security options, including everything from door sensors to video cameras and more.

We also made sure to include a selection of both professionally-monitored and installed options, as well as systems that embrace a DIY approach. Some of these DIY systems require no tools and install in under an hour, while some offer optional professional installation help.

While most security companies require contracts, we found some no-contract options for you, too. Most of the companies included that do require contracts offer at least a 30-day trial before commitment.

With 24/7 monitoring, a security company may summon help for you when you can't. The companies included in this ranking all

offer monitoring and emergency response.

We considered the company's Better Business Bureau rating, user reviews and satisfaction ratings, and the company's reputation for providing responsive customer support.

Best Home Security Systems

ADT – If you're looking for versatile package options that cover home, commercial, and even small business

SimpliSafe – With easy setup and a no-contract option, SimpliSafe is a user-friendly home security system

Frontpoint – Easy to set up and no need for professional installation, Frontpoint is a versatile choice for many homeowners.

Protect America – With everything from water monitoring to glass sensors, Protect America's wide range of options means you can customize your security system to your specific needs.

Vivint – Home security doesn't just cover homes, anymore. With Vivint, your security system can extend to your vehicle, too.

Ring – Looking for a comprehensive security system that you can monitor on your own with no contracts and extra fees? Ring delivers exactly that, and 24/7 monitoring is available if you choose.

Google Nest – Need a system that integrates with your entire smart-home system? Google's Nest does this, while also adding on variable options to help outfit your house.

More info on each company, with links, is at <https://money.com/best-home-security-system/>

Reflections on the State of Journalism & Saving Local Newspapers

Regular readers may recall that my first career was that of a professional journalist, trained on the city desk of the *Washington Post*. Committed as I am to sound journalism, I am concerned with both the loss of newspapers around the country and the unrelenting assault on the media by the President.

Free and healthy newspapers are essential to a democratic society, which is why the free press is embedded in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. They're our watchdogs.

We can all be proud of how the media have kept us informed and, frankly, kept their cool in the hostile "enemy of the people" environment fostered by the current occupant of the White House, who labels any coverage that doesn't flatter him "fake news" without providing a specific response to the subject at hand. Most upsetting is the portrayal of straight news reporting as biased.

The sad fact is that the general public lacks journalistic literacy. Specifically, readers (and non-readers) conflate news articles with columns and editorials. Because the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, for example, criticize the President editorially, readers too readily attribute that bias to the news pages, which is simply wrong.

A core principle of news reporting is "no un-attributed facts or opinions." Of course, a reporter uses his or her discretion as to which facts and opinions are included, but if, for example, an impeachment witness states facts or opinions derogatory of the President, reporting the testimony is straight news, and a good reporter will seek a response from the President. But labeling

such an article "fake news" or "a lie" is not a denial, it is a refusal to refute the testimony.

I know that some Trump supporters will say "hogwash" to me asserting that straight news articles are unbiased, but that only proves the point I have made above. America's newspapers would do us all a favor if they eliminated columns and editorials and printed only straight news articles and letters to the editor. Attacks on the media by the President are made more believable because of the inability of too many readers to distinguish news articles from columns and editorials.

TV networks also contribute to this conflating of news and opinion. Fox News, CNN and MSNBC all have daytime news programs, but they devote evening hours to personal opinion. You don't see that on the three broadcast networks.

Financial health is another serious problem. While the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *USA Today* and *Washington Post* are all thriving, too many local newspapers are downsizing and going out of business. We need some billionaires committed to journalistic standards to rescue them from owners interested only in profit.

REAL ESTATE TODAY



By JIM SMITH, Realtor®



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Environmental Film Festival This Weekend

I wrote about this event last week. Tonight (Thursday) is the free "Community Night" which includes a reception, award ceremony and the screening of a few entries. You can peruse the 60 films being screened at www.CEFF.net. The films are bundled into four screening sessions on Friday and Saturday plus two afternoon sessions on Sunday featuring the films which won awards. You can purchase tickets on the website. Prices range from \$9 for a single session (\$4 for children under 12) up to \$20 or \$25 for a day pass and \$65 for an all-access pass. Look for our booth at the **Eco-Expo**, noon to 7 pm on Friday and Saturday. The venue is the American Mountaineering Center at 10th Street & Washington Avenue in downtown Golden.

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