

The Southern California business owner's security & network checklist.

A quick, no-jargon walkthrough of what actually keeps a business protected and connected — the same things our team checks on every site visit. Use it to spot the gaps before they cost you. **When you're ready, a free on-site walkthrough turns this list into a plan built for your space.**

1 CAMERA COVERAGE

- ☐ **Every entrance and exit is covered** — front doors, back doors, loading docks, and side gates, with faces clearly identifiable.
- ☐ **No blind spots in high-value areas** — registers, safes, stockrooms, server closets, and equipment yards.
- ☐ **Parking lots and approaches are in frame** — where slip-and-falls, vehicle damage, and disputes most often happen.
- ☐ **Footage is clear enough to use** — resolution, lighting, and lens condition good enough to identify people and read plates, day or night.
- ☐ **You can view it from anywhere** — secure remote viewing on your phone, not just a recorder in a back room.

2 RECORDING & RETENTION

- ☐ **The system is actually recording** — the most common “gotcha”: a camera that looks on but hasn't saved footage in weeks.
- ☐ **Timestamps are accurate** — the wrong date/time on footage can make it useless as evidence.
- ☐ **You keep enough history** — storage sized so footage is still there when an incident surfaces days or weeks later.

WHY THIS MATTERS IN CALIFORNIA

California leads the nation in “nuclear” verdicts, and premises-liability claims are roughly **1 in 7** of them. When a slip-and-fall or injury claim hits, clear, timestamped footage is often your strongest defense — and your best tool against staged or inflated claims (workers'-comp fraud alone runs an estimated **\$1–3 billion a year** statewide). But video only helps if the system was actually recording.

Sources: U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform; California Dept. of Insurance (Fraud Division).

3 NETWORK & WIFI

- ☐ **No dead zones where you work** — reliable coverage in every office, warehouse aisle, patio, and back room — not just near the router.
- ☐ **Guest WiFi is separated from your business network** — customers and visitors can't reach your cameras, POS, or files.
- ☐ **Wiring is clean, labeled, and built to grow** — structured cabling you can add to, not a tangle behind a closet door.
- ☐ **A plan for when the internet goes down** — backup options (including Starlink for hard-to-reach sites) so a single outage doesn't stop the day.

4 SECURITY & ACCESS

- ☐ **Default passwords are changed** — factory logins on cameras and equipment are a common, avoidable way in.
- ☐ **Firmware is kept up to date** — outdated devices are the easiest target; updates close known holes.
- ☐ **Only the right people have access** — individual logins for who can view footage and change settings, removed when staff leave.

5 KEEP IT WORKING

- ☐ **Lenses are clean and aimed** — dust, cobwebs, and a bumped camera quietly erode the footage you're counting on.
- ☐ **Storage health is checked** — hard drives fail; a full or dead drive means no recording when it counts.
- ☐ **Someone is keeping watch** — a regular, documented check so problems are caught before you need the footage, not after.

THE EASY WAY TO STAY COVERED

Most of section 5 is exactly what our **Watch4U** plans handle for you — a monthly inspection, cleaning, and a short documented report confirming your system is recording. We keep watch alongside you, not instead of you. See a real sample report at watch-4u.com/sample-report.

Want us to walk your site and check every box?

Free, no-obligation on-site walkthrough — you get an honest assessment and a clear, itemized quote.

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