

The security market is rapidly evolving; there are a number of security options like home cameras, personal lockers, video door phones, burglar alarm systems, etc. that help you keep your home safe and sound. "One of the biggest trends is Do-it-Yourself (DIY) security systems for the current generation who prefers to use a plug-and-play system. These are essentially Wi-Fi enabled home security cameras, which are designed for Indian homes. They use minimal power but are built with night vision video-capturing capabilities and are available with motion sensor-based recordings. The home owner can

remotely access the feed, speak through the camera and even control the camera through an app while being in any part of the world," says Mehemosh Pithawalla, VP and global head, marketing - sales and innovation, Godrej Security Solutions.

Home security does not only limit itself to keeping an eye on who enters the home but also includes home safes. Home safes have evolved and are now available with biometric access. It offers security features like raising an alarm and sending a text message with the image of the person trying to break open the safe.

The trend of personal space and the increased use of expensive jewellery and accessories has given rise to smaller personal lockers. These personal lockers are used to store everyday valuable watches, jewellery, keys, rings, etc. These sleek personal safes come in handy as they are generally placed in the living room or vanity area and all your valuables are accessible at one place.

Make sure there is automated security installed at all the entry and exit points and floors in your complex. Installing smoke detectors, motion



Ensure you have the following phone numbers saved on your phone:

- LOCAL POLICE STATION
- LOCAL FIRE BRIGADE
- FAMILY DOCTOR'S NUMBER
- HOSPITALS IN THE VICINITY
- AMBULANCE

Safety equipment to have at home and in your society:

- FIRE EXTINGUISHER
- SAFETY LADDER
- EMERGENCY ESCAPE MASK
- FIRE EVACUATION PLAN
- FIRST AID KIT
- SPRINKLER SYSTEMS
- SMOKE ALARMS
- EMERGENCY POWER SUPPLY
- MECHANICAL VENTILATION
- EMERGENCY EXIT SIGNS

at every level of the house;

- Check escape routes in case of a fire, there should be at least two exit ways;
- Security cameras in the building should be connected to a centralised video recording and viewing system, which should be monitored by a security staff 24/7;
- A biometric device should be a mandatory part of the building you are moving into to keep track of visitors entering and exiting the building and to avoid trespassing;
- There should be external lighting on all entry and exit points as well as in the parking lots.

BURGLAR-PROOF YOUR HOME

We always worry about the safety of our loved ones and our home. Put that fear to ease by ensuring your home is safe

SECURE YOUR SECOND HOME

Securing your second home can be tricky as you are not going to be around for a long time. Opt for security systems that use motion sensors. A notification is sent to the owner's mobile phone and the cameras start recording and streaming the feed to the mobile device every time a movement is detected. A few of these products also offer the feature to share the feed with your neighbour or relative who may be able to reach the spot at the earliest.

sensors, flood sensors, vibration and shock sensors and even a carbon monoxide sensor to keep an eye on air pollution, is crucial.

Kunal Lata, VP, SILA gives us a few tips:

- Main doors should have dead bolts and quality locks;
- Security alarm systems should be installed including door and window alarms, motion sensors and breaking glass detectors;
- Smoke and carbon monoxide alarm systems should be installed

INVESTING IN A HOME



1 When it comes to the security of your loved ones, it is crucial that you invest in trustworthy brands and products. Make sure that the security systems you install are not by fly-by-night operators. Pithawalla adds, "A number of CCTVs and home cameras stream the video feed through servers located in a foreign country. This poses a threat to security since the feed can be accessed and controlled. Instead, consumers should look for products that offer encrypted data streaming or memory card based video storage."

2 Security shouldn't be cumbersome. If you have the elderly or children at home who are not tech-savvy, a complex system can be a bane during emergencies;

3 Setting up video-door phones is a good way of ensuring you are letting people you know into your home. When it is Wi-Fi enabled, you are able to talk to the person at your door via a video call;

4 Home security systems can be complex to install/configure; opt for brands that offer backend setup and after-sale service.