



ANTISPYCAMKIT

Detect hidden cameras in hotels & Airbnbs



Hidden Camera Detection Checklist

A room-by-room sweep guide for hotels, vacation rentals, and any unfamiliar space. Print it. Pack it. Stay safe.

80%

of hidden cameras are found
in bedrooms & bathrooms

1 in 10

vacation rentals may have
undisclosed recording devices

5 min

is all you need for a basic
room sweep with this guide

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1 Red Flags Before You Book

You can spot some warning signs before you even arrive. Keep an eye out for these when browsing listings.

Listing Red Flags

- **No reviews or very few reviews** — less accountability means higher risk
- **"Security cameras" disclosed vaguely** — legitimate hosts specify exact locations (e.g., "front door camera"); vague language like "security system" can hide indoor cameras
- **Reviews mentioning "feeling watched"** or privacy concerns
- **Excessive smart home devices** mentioned in the listing description
- **Host is overly specific** about which rooms to use or avoid
- **Recently listed property** with a suspiciously low price for the area

Know the Rules

On Airbnb, hosts **MUST** disclose all recording devices (even inactive ones) in the listing. Cameras in bedrooms and bathrooms are strictly prohibited on all major platforms. If you find an undisclosed camera, the platform will typically side with you.

2 What You Need

You don't need expensive gear to do a basic sweep. Here's what to bring:

Essential (Free)

- **Your smartphone** — use the front camera to detect infrared LEDs (most phone cameras can see IR light that night-vision cameras emit)
- **Flashlight** — phone flashlight works; a bright one is better for spotting lens reflections
- **This checklist** — printed or saved to your phone

Recommended (\$30–\$80)

- **RF detector** — scans for wireless camera signals (\$30–50)
- **Lens finder** — red LED device that makes camera lenses flash/reflect (\$15–30)

Professional (\$100–\$200)

- **Multi-function detector** — combines RF scanning, lens detection, and IR visibility in one device

Smartphone IR Test

Point your phone's front-facing camera at a TV remote and press a button. If you see a purple/white glow on screen, your camera can detect infrared. Most front cameras work; rear cameras often have IR filters that block it.

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5-Minute Room Sweep Checklist

Work through this checklist when you first enter any hotel room, Airbnb, or vacation rental. It takes about 5 minutes once you know the pattern.

Step 1: Visual Scan (2 minutes)

Stand in the doorway and scan the room. Look for anything that seems out of place.

- Look for **small holes** in walls, ceilings, objects, and fixtures
- Check for **objects pointing at the bed, shower, or changing area**
- Look for **blinking LEDs** or tiny lights you can't explain
- Notice any **new-looking items** that seem out of character for the space
- Check for **wires or cables** that don't connect to anything obvious
- Look for **duplicate items** (two smoke detectors, extra clocks, etc.)

Step 2: Physical Check — High-Priority Spots (2 minutes)

Inspect these specific locations. They account for the vast majority of hidden cameras found in documented cases.

BEDROOM

- Smoke detector / CO alarm — look for a lens, try gently twisting it
- Alarm clock — check the face for a pinhole, especially if it faces the bed
- TV (power light area and any USB ports)
- USB chargers / adapters plugged into outlets — **unplug any you didn't bring**
- Picture frames, mirrors, and decorative items facing the bed
- Air purifiers, Bluetooth speakers, or unfamiliar electronics
- Tissue box, books, stuffed animals — anything with a line of sight to the bed

BATHROOM

- Showerhead or fixtures (especially aftermarket-looking ones)
- Toiletry holders, soap dispensers, air fresheners
- Towel hooks or robe hooks (pinhole cameras can be embedded)
- Electrical outlets and night lights

- Ventilation fans or covers — check for a lens behind the grate
- Mirror — use the **fingertip test** (see tip box below)

LIVING AREA / COMMON SPACES

- Smart home devices (speakers, hubs, smart displays)
- Router / modem — note the model and check for extras
- Bookshelves, plant pots, decorative objects at eye level
- Coat hooks or key holders near the entrance

Mirror Fingertip Test

Place your fingertip directly on the mirror surface. On a normal mirror, there's a small gap between your finger and its reflection (because the reflective coating is behind the glass). If your finger and the reflection touch with NO gap, it could be a two-way mirror. Note: this test isn't 100% reliable on all mirror types, but it's a useful quick check.

Step 3: Tech Sweep (1 minute)

Use your phone and any detection gear you brought.

SMARTPHONE SWEEP

- Turn off all lights and close curtains/blinds to make the room dark
- Open your **front-facing camera** and slowly scan the room
- Look for **small purple/white dots** on screen — these are infrared LEDs from night-vision cameras
- Pay special attention to smoke detectors, clocks, and electronics

FLASHLIGHT SWEEP

- Hold your flashlight at eye level and scan the room slowly
- Camera lenses reflect light distinctly — look for a **small, bright, circular reflection**
- Check all surfaces, especially those listed in Step 2

RF DETECTOR (if you have one)

- Turn off your phone's Wi-Fi and Bluetooth to reduce interference
- Slowly walk the room with the detector, sweeping near walls and objects
- Investigate any areas where the signal spikes — note: Wi-Fi routers and smart TVs will trigger it too

LENS FINDER (if you have one)

- Hold the device up to your eye and look through the viewfinder
- Activate the red LEDs and scan the room systematically
- Camera lenses will **flash/sparkle distinctly** — different from normal reflections

WI-FI NETWORK SCAN

- Check available Wi-Fi networks on your phone
- Look for **suspicious network names** — camera brands often create networks like "IPCamera_xxxx" or "IPCAM-xxxx"
- Use a free network scanner app (like Fing) to see all devices connected to the property's Wi-Fi — cameras often show up as unknown devices

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Device-by-Device Detection Guide

Hidden cameras are disguised as everyday objects. Here are the most common disguises and how to spot each one.

DISGUISED AS	WHAT TO LOOK FOR	HOW TO CHECK
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Smoke detector	Unusual lens, doesn't match others in the property, extra-thick base	Gently twist to see if it detaches; look for a lens underneath or on the side
USB wall charger	Looks like a normal charger but plugged in with nothing charging from it	Unplug it and inspect the face for a tiny pinhole lens
Alarm clock	Pinhole on the front face, unusually positioned to face the bed	Check the front face with a flashlight; look for a lens reflection
Screw or bolt	A screw head that seems to have a hole or lens in the center	Compare with nearby screws — camera screws often look slightly different
Picture frame	Unusual thickness, pinhole in the matting or frame	Remove from wall; check back for electronics or batteries
Air freshener	Wall-mounted unit in an odd location with a clear line of sight	Check the front face for a pinhole; open if possible
Electrical outlet	Extra outlets that don't match others, or outlets in unusual locations	Check if they're real by (carefully) trying to plug something in
Clothes hook	Often found in Airbnb bathrooms, designed to hold towels	Look for a pinhole on the front face; these are cheap and widely sold online
Pen or pen holder	Desktop items positioned to face key areas	Check for lenses on the end or body of the pen
Water bottle	Bottles left in conspicuous positions	Check the label area for a pinhole; feel for unusual weight or electronics
Phone charger dock	Looks like a regular charging stand but angled toward the bed	Check the front/top for tiny holes; compare weight to a real charger
Teddy bear / toy	Stuffed animal positioned facing the bed, especially in adult-only spaces	Feel for hard objects inside; check the eyes for small lenses

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What to Do If You Find Something

DO NOT destroy, disable, or confront anyone about the device.

Tampering with or destroying a hidden camera could compromise evidence and potentially put you at legal risk. Your priority is to protect yourself and preserve evidence.

Immediate Steps

- **Stop undressing** — cover the suspected device with a towel or clothing
- **Take photos and video** of the device, its location, and any wiring
- **Note the exact location** — room number, address, device description
- **Do NOT touch or unplug** the device (preserve evidence)

If You're in a Hotel

- Call the front desk and request a manager immediately
- Request a different room (on a different floor if possible)
- File a formal complaint in writing — ask for a copy
- Call local police and file a report

If You're in an Airbnb / Vacation Rental

- Leave the property if you feel unsafe
- Report through the Airbnb app or platform (include your photos)
- Call local police and file a report
- Request a full refund and alternative accommodation from the platform
- Leave an honest review to warn other guests

Follow Up

- Save all photos, reports, and correspondence
- Check with local authorities about recording/voyeurism laws in that jurisdiction
- Consider consulting a lawyer if the situation warrants it

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Recommended Apps & Tools

These free and paid tools can significantly improve your detection capabilities. All are available on iOS and Android unless noted.

Free Apps

APP	WHAT IT DOES	BEST FOR
Fing (free)	Scans Wi-Fi networks to show all connected devices with manufacturer info	Spotting unknown cameras on the property's Wi-Fi network
Hidden Camera Detector (free)	Uses your phone's magnetometer to detect magnetic fields from camera electronics	Quick scan when you don't have dedicated gear
Glint Finder (Android)	Uses your phone's flash and camera to detect lens reflections automatically	Systematic lens detection without buying a dedicated finder
DontSpy 2 (iOS, \$3.99)	Detects infrared LEDs and RF signals using your phone's sensors	All-in-one detection app for iPhone users

Travel Packing List for Detection

Add these to your travel bag for peace of mind:

- **Small LED flashlight** — brighter than a phone light, better for lens detection
- **RF detector** — pocket-sized, runs on AAA batteries, scans a room in 30 seconds
- **Lens finder** — credit card-sized, cheap, and surprisingly effective
- **Printed quick reference card** (page 9 of this guide) — no phone needed
- **Portable door lock** — prevents entry while you sweep the room

Full Gear Reviews

For detailed reviews, comparison tables, and buying recommendations, visit:
antispycamkit.com/guides/best-hidden-camera-detectors-2026/

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Quick Reference Card

Print this page and keep it in your travel bag.

HIDDEN CAMERA SWEEP — QUICK REFERENCE

THE 5-MINUTE SWEEP

STEP 1 — VISUAL SCAN (2 min)

Scan for small holes, misplaced objects, unexplained LEDs, extra wires, duplicate items, and anything pointing at the bed/shower

STEP 2 — CHECK TOP 5 SPOTS (2 min)

■ Smoke detector ■ USB chargers ■ Alarm clock ■ Picture frames ■ Bathroom hooks

STEP 3 — TECH SWEEP (1 min)

Lights off → Front camera scan for IR dots → Flashlight sweep for lens reflections → Check Wi-Fi for suspicious networks → RF detector if you have one

IF YOU FIND SOMETHING

■ Cover the device ■ Take photos ■ Don't touch it ■ Call management ■ File police report

FREE APPS TO DOWNLOAD NOW

Fing (Wi-Fi scanner) | **Hidden Camera Detector** (magnetic field scan) | **Glint Finder** (Android lens detector)

RECOMMENDED GEAR

Basic: RF detector (\$30–50) | **Better:** RF + lens finder (\$50–80) | **Pro:** Multi-function detector (\$100–200)
Full reviews: antispycamkit.com/guides/best-hidden-camera-detectors-2026/

For more in-depth guides, gear reviews, and detection tips:

antispycamkit.com/guides

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