

# DETECTING HIDDEN CAMERAS IN HOTELS AND TOURIST RENTALS



As tourism and platforms like Airbnb continue to grow in popularity, it's vital to be aware of potential risks and safeguard your privacy while staying in temporary accommodations. Identifying hidden cameras in hotels and Airbnb has become a top concern for many travelers following reports of incidents involving these devices.

## Why are hidden cameras

Surveillance devices called hidden cameras are often placed in secret locations to record individuals without their knowledge or consent. While they can serve a valid purpose in public areas for security reasons, using them without permission in temporary lodgings can be a severe breach of privacy for guests. Several cases of privacy violations have arisen in Airbnb and hotel accommodations due to the discovery of hidden cameras. These incidents have increased awareness of the need to detect and prevent unauthorized cameras, as they could potentially leak personal images or invade guests' privacy by spying on their daily activities.

## How to detect hidden cameras in temporary accommodation

It can be challenging to see hidden cameras since they are typically small and inconspicuous. However, travelers can take some steps to protect their privacy:

- **Comments and reviews:** Before booking accommodation, it is advisable to check the comments and reviews of other guests to look for mentions of hidden cameras or negative experiences related to privacy.
- **Visual inspection:** It is essential to conduct a careful visual examination of the room and common areas for any unusual or suspicious items, with particular attention to objects like clocks, smoke detectors, plugs, and mirrors, which may conceal cameras.
- **Use a flashlight:** You can look for unusual reflections that could indicate a camera lens.
- **Scan the Wi-Fi network:** The Wi-Fi network can be scanned for unknown or suspicious devices connected to it.
- **Signal detectors:** There are wireless camera signal detectors on the market to help locate possible video transmissions.
- **Use your mobile phone:** The hidden cameras' infrared light beam with night recording function can be detected thanks to the smartphone camera sensor.

## What to do if you find a hidden camera

If you suspect or find a hidden camera in temporary accommodation, it is crucial to be cautious and consider the following steps:

- **Document the situation:** If a hidden camera is found, it is advisable to take photographs or videos as evidence before disconnecting or removing it.
- **Inform the host or hotel staff:** Immediately report suspicions to the host in the case of Airbnb or hotel staff. They can provide information about the camera's purpose if it is a legitimate

situation.

- Report to the platform: In the case of Airbnb, communicate the incident to the platform so that it can take action and protect future guests' privacy.
- Contact local authorities: If it is considered that the right to privacy has been violated, contact local authorities to report the incident.
- Find alternative accommodation: If you do not feel comfortable or safe, you should look for alternative accommodation and consider canceling your reservation.

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