

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT GATE INTERCOM

There are several different gate intercom technologies so choosing the right gate can be confusing. Let's try to simplify that so you don't get stuck with the wrong system for your needs.

First you need to answer some questions:

1. Do you want a wireless or wired system? Can you run a cable between the building and the gate? If the answer is no, then wireless it is. If yes you may be able to use either.
2. Do you need video, or audio only? Video allows you to see and talk to visitors.
3. Do you want to answer calls from the gate even when you aren't home or do you just need an intercom in your building? Or perhaps do you need a handheld that allows you to roam about the building and still answer calls?

TYPES OF GATE INTERCOMS

VIDEO CAMERA INTERCOM



- Full-duplex telephone-like communication
- Includes both video and audio

Technology types:

- WiFi Wireless
- Wired
- Cell Phone Network

Ways to see and talk to visitors:

- Tablet PC
- Smartphone
- Wired Video Monitor

WIFI INTERCOM



- Requires a WiFi Internet connection at the gate
- Includes both video and audio
- Full-duplex telephone-like communication

Ways to see and talk to visitors:

- Tablet PC
- Smartphone

2-WAY RADIO INTERCOM



- Longest wireless range of up to a mile
- Walkie-talkie-like communication
- Can be battery powered

Ways to talk to visitors:

- Base station intercom
- Handheld radio

CELL PHONE NETWORK INTERCOM



- Uses AT&T or T-Mobile cell service at the gate
- Wireless but no limits on range
- Full-duplex telephone-like communication

Ways to talk to visitors:

- Any landline or mobile phone

DIGITAL INTERCOM



- Long-range when line of sight
- Proprietary encryption for secure conversations
- Full-duplex telephone-like communication

Ways to talk to visitors:

- Base station intercom

WIRED INTERCOM



- Requires a wire between the gate and an inside monitor
- Full-duplex telephone-like communication

Ways to talk to visitors:

- Wall or desk-mounted indoor intercom
- One system has WiFi and can also use a smartphone

Notes:

- All systems allow for remote gate opening
- Wireless systems will require an AC power outlet near the intercom (except the battery-powered 2-way radio model)
- Contact www.intercomsonline.com for assistance in choosing the right system for you.

Provided courtesy of:



Once you answer these basic questions, then we can work towards the right solution for you. We have broken these questions down to the technologies available:

NEED A WIRELESS SYSTEM

For wireless intercoms there are four different technologies.

1. **2-Way Radio Intercom** – Uses business band two-way radio frequencies for push-to-talk audio only communication. *This has the longest-range potential for onsite communication.* The equipment is a little industrial looking but is exceptionally durable. You can use base station intercoms or portable handheld radios to communicate with the gate. If you don't have AC power at the gate, this is the best option without requiring solar power since you can use regular batteries.
2. **Digital Intercom** – This one uses radio waves like the 2-Way Radio intercom; however it uses a digital spread spectrum technology. The range may be less, but it has hands free capability so you don't have to press a button like the push-to-talk intercoms. There is no mobile option available for receiving calls.
3. **Cell Phone Intercom** – As the name sounds, this uses cell phone service to call ANY phone number you want. Since it is just calling your phone, you can take calls from your gate no matter where you are. No other device is needed to receive calls other than a phone. Since it is essentially a cell phone, it requires its own phone number and cell service so there will be a monthly cost. You can get a model that gives you video capability as well. With this intercom you don't have to worry about distance at all.
4. **Wi-Fi Intercom** – This intercom uses your building's Wi-Fi service to communicate. To use it you need a strong Wi-Fi signal at the gate. It has video capability, and it communicates with an App on a smartphone or tablet PC. This unit does not have a monthly cost associated with it.

NEED A WIRED SYSTEM

Wired intercoms use different wire types and have different abilities. Here are the two most common types:

1. **CAT-5 Wire** – Systems that use CAT-5 or 6 cable usually use an Internet Protocol (IP) to communicate. Our high-end CAT-5 system has noise cancellation, high-definition audio, full-duplex handsfree communication, and amplification for loud environments. We mainly use these for truck scale applications.
2. **2-Wire** – These can have a feature set from basic to elaborate. Our basic intercom provides handsfree communication on the substation side and push-to-talk on the master side. There are also video intercoms that have handsfree communication on both sides.

FEATURES

VIDEO

There are two ways to receive video from a video gate intercom: on a smartphone or tablet PC, or a dedicated monitor inside the building.

GATE OPENING

All of our systems have the ability to activate a gate opener. They require running two wires between the intercom and the gate controller. When you activate the gate opening through a button or key press, a switch

closes (or opens) in the intercom which activates the gate opening. It doesn't matter what type of gate controller it is as long as there are connections for a switch. All gate controllers should have this capability.

MOBILITY

There are a couple of forms of mobility in receiving calls from the gate, onsite and offsite. For the 2-way radio intercoms you can use handheld radios for onsite communication as long as you are within range of the gate intercom. For Wi-Fi, Internet-connected, and Cell Network intercoms you can have offsite communication using your phone or an app on a smartphone. You can be away from your home or business and still take calls from the gate.

VISITOR ACCESS

Some of our intercoms have keypads that enable you to program codes that visitors enter to open the gate. The Cell Network intercoms can have a list of programmed phone numbers in them, and when it receives the caller ID of one of those phone numbers, the gate will open. Visitors just call the gate with their cell phone and it opens. One Internet-connected gate intercom enables you to give visitors QR codes and they can scan that code on the gate intercom and it will open. Proximity cards are an option on the cell intercoms.

CONCLUSION

We know choosing a gate intercom system can be confusing so call us at 888-298-9489 and we will guide you through choosing the right intercom for you.

For more detailed information on the above systems, you can visit IntercomsOnline.com here: [gate intercom](http://gateintercom.com).