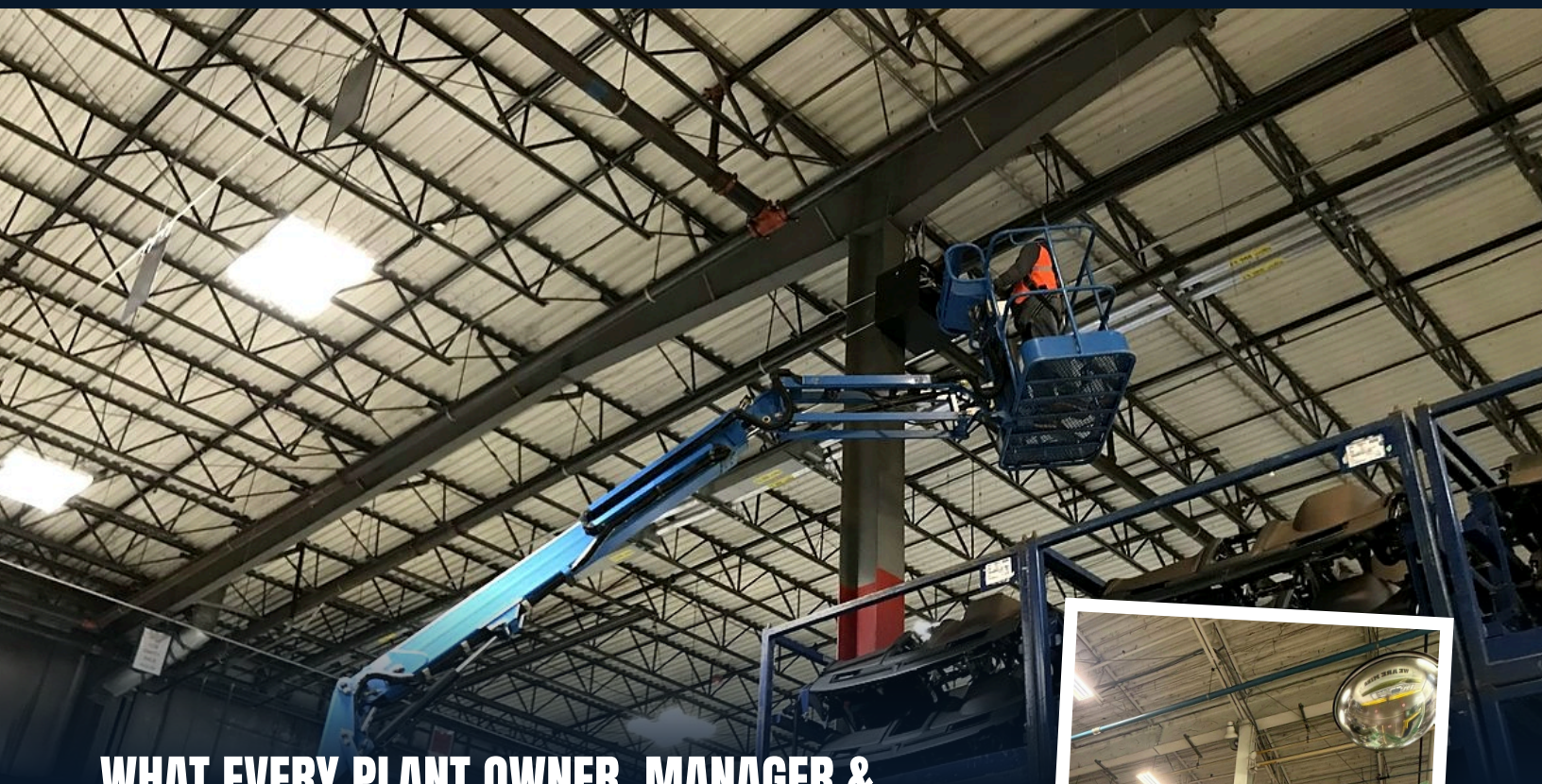
THE 2026 MICHIGAN

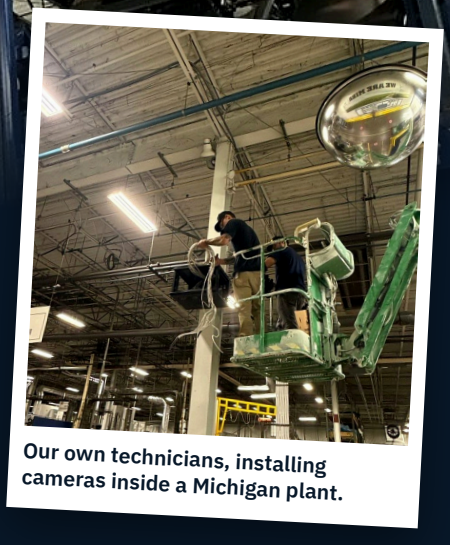
MANUFACTURING SECURITY REPORT

PRESENTED BY MICHIGAN SECURITY SYSTEMS



WHAT EVERY PLANT OWNER, MANAGER & OPERATIONS LEAD SHOULD KNOW

- **Real Michigan cases:** copper, vehicle & yard theft
- **Cargo theft, insider fraud & ransomware** by the numbers
- **Protecting a plant** zone by zone, fence line to server room
- **CMMC, NDAA & landline rules**, costs & a 20-point scorecard



Our own technicians, installing cameras inside a Michigan plant.

Inside: 10% off your new security system

MICHIGAN SECURITY SYSTEMS

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WELCOME

WHY WE WROTE THIS REPORT

Michigan builds things. Our plants, tier suppliers, machine shops and warehouses are the backbone of the state's economy, and they hold exactly what thieves want: copper, finished vehicles, tools, metal stock, electronics and the know-how behind them.

In the past year, thieves cut through fences to drive brand-new vehicles off lots at and near Detroit and Flat Rock assembly plants, spent hours loading copper out of a Coldwater business, and stripped copper wire from equipment at a Branch County plant over a single weekend. At the same time, manufacturing was the most attacked industry in the country for cyberattacks, and insiders remain one of the most expensive threats of all.

This report gives owners, plant managers and operations leaders a practical picture of:

- What is actually happening to Michigan manufacturers, with sources
- Where plants are most exposed, from the fence line to the server room
- Which security systems actually reduce losses
- Compliance rules for defense, government and OEM suppliers
- Honest costs and a scorecard to grade your facility

Michigan Security Systems is a commercial-only security integrator that has served Michigan since 2000. We design, install and service cameras, access control, gates, alarms and networks for plants, tier suppliers and public agencies, always with our own licensed technicians and never subcontractors.

The team at Michigan Security Systems

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Since 2000
Protecting Michigan facilities

4.9★
Google rating, 88 reviews

42
Cameras at one Tier One plant

0
Subcontractors, ever

Your report bonus: mention code **MSSMFG26** when you book and save **10%** on a new security system for your facility. Details on page 17.

SECTION 1

MANUFACTURING BY THE NUMBERS

The data behind the decisions. Every figure on this page comes from a published source, listed on page 18.

$725M

in estimated U.S. and Canadian cargo theft losses in 2025, up 60% in one year. Confirmed cargo thefts rose 18% to 2,646.

VERISK CARGONET, 2026

$273,990

was the average value of a single cargo theft in 2025, up 36%. Metal thefts jumped 77%, driven by copper demand.

VERISK CARGONET, 2026

27.7%

of all cyberattacks IBM investigated in 2025 hit manufacturing, the most of any industry for the fifth year in a row.

IBM X-FORCE, VIA MANUFACTURING DIVE

1,060

U.S. manufacturers were named as ransomware victims in 2025, 14% of all victims and more than any other sector.

GUIDEPOINT SECURITY, JAN 2026

5%

of annual revenue is what the typical organization loses to fraud by its own people. The median case costs $104,000 and runs about 12 months before discovery.

ACFE OCCUPATIONAL FRAUD 2026

$1.5M

in new vehicles was stolen or targeted by a Michigan theft ring accused of cutting through fences at Ford's Flat Rock plant lots.

FORD AUTHORITY, SEPT 2025

87

reports of stolen Ram infotainment screens were investigated by the Macomb Auto Theft Squad in about six months.

MACOMB COUNTY SHERIFF, AUG 2025

60%

of convicted burglars said they would look for a different target if they saw an alarm system. 83% check for one first.

UNC CHARLOTTE SURVEY OF 422 BURGLARS

What it means for your plant: thieves are targeting high-value goods and metal, losses per incident are rising, and cyber and insider threats are as costly as a break-in. Your security has to cover the yard, the building, the people and the network.

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SECTION 2

MICHIGAN CASES: YARDS, LOTS & PLANTS

Recent thefts from Michigan manufacturing sites, and what each one shows.

FEB 2026
DETROIT, MI

New vehicles taken from a plant storage lot

Around 3 a.m., thieves crashed through the fence of a third-party storage lot near Stellantis' Detroit Assembly Complex – Jefferson and drove off nearly a dozen new Ram, Jeep and Dodge vehicles. One Durango was found stuck in the snow nearby.

> **Lesson:** A fence alone is not security. Fence-line cameras with AI alerts and live response would flag people on the lot before the first vehicle moved.

2021–2022
FLAT ROCK, MI

A theft ring hits Ford plant lots

Thieves repeatedly cut holes in the chain-link fence around an overflow lot at Ford's Flat Rock plant and used security defeat devices to drive away new Mustangs. About $1.5 million in vehicles was stolen or targeted. Three Detroit-area men were later charged with conducting a criminal enterprise.

> **Lesson:** Repeat targets need detection, not just barriers: perimeter cameras, lighting, and license plate recognition at every exit.

FEB 21, 2026
COLDWATER, MI

Hours inside a copper business

A thief using a stolen U-Haul trailer spent about two hours, from 11:30 p.m. to 1:45 a.m., loading copper coils and scrap at a Coldwater copper and brass business. Nearly $100,000 in copper materials was reported stolen there this year.

> **Lesson:** Two hours on site means no one was alerted. Monitored intrusion alarms and after-hours video alerts turn hours into minutes.

The pattern: nighttime and weekends, fence lines and outdoor storage, and thieves who stay long enough to load a truck because no one knows they are there.

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SECTION 3

COPPER, CARGO & HOW THIEVES GET CAUGHT

Metal and cargo theft are rising fast. Here is what that looks like, and what makes cases solvable.

SEPT 2026

BRANCH COUNTY, MI

Copper wire cut from plant equipment

Over a single weekend, thieves cut and removed about $30,000 in industrial copper wire from equipment at a gravel plant in Girard Township.

What it shows: Remote equipment and unstaffed weekends need cameras with alerts and lighting, and alarms on the power feeds thieves cut.

FEB–AUG 2025

MACOMB COUNTY, MI

Infotainment screens stripped from trucks

The Macomb Auto Theft Squad investigated 87 reports of stolen Ram infotainment screens, with some vehicles hit more than once. Detectives caught two suspects in the act during a surveillance operation.

What it shows: Parked vehicles, fleets and finished goods are targets for parts, not just whole vehicles. Lot cameras and lighting matter.

OCT 2026

I-69, INDIANA

Copper thieves caught on video and plate readers

Investigators charged a family accused of stealing more than $367,000 in copper wire from interstate work zones. Surveillance video, license plate reader data and cell phone data built the case.

What it shows: Clear video and license plates are what turn a loss into an arrest and, often, recovered property.

Cargo theft is getting smarter

- Organized groups pick specific, high-value loads
- “Fictitious pickups” use fake carriers and paperwork to drive your goods away
- Trailers left in yards over weekends are prime targets
- Indiana cargo theft rose 30% in 2025

At the dock, video is your proof: cameras that capture the driver, truck, trailer number and plate at every pickup, tied to gate access logs, let you verify a carrier and prove what left your building.

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SECTION 4

THE TOP RISKS FOR MICHIGAN PLANTS

What we see most often walking manufacturing and distribution facilities across Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

01 **Yard & lot theft**

Finished goods, vehicles, trailers and equipment stored outside behind a fence and little else.

02 **Copper & metal theft**

Wire, coils, scrap bins, HVAC units and power feeds, often hit repeatedly.

03 **Cargo theft & fake pickups**

High-value loads targeted at the dock, in the yard or by fraudulent carriers.

04 **Insider theft & fraud**

Tools, stock, scrap and time theft by people who know your routines and blind spots.

05 **Ransomware & network attacks**

Old cameras and recorders with default passwords give attackers a way into your network.

06 **Unauthorized access**

Ex-employees, contractors and visitors in areas where they do not belong, including engineering and IP.

07 **Safety & liability claims**

Forklift incidents, injuries and disputed claims, often decided by whether there is video.

08 **Systems nobody maintains**

Dead cameras, full drives and alarms still dialing out on phone lines being shut off.

Warning signs your plant is exposed

- Cameras show blurry shapes at night or miss the fence line
- No one is alerted when someone enters the yard after hours
- Keys and codes have not changed since staff turned over
- Docks have no camera that reads trailer numbers and plates
- Cameras share a network with production and office PCs
- The alarm panel still has a phone line plugged in

Card access on an industrial cage gate we installed.

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SECTION 5

THE 5-LAYER PROTECTION PLAN

No single product protects a plant. The strongest facilities combine five layers, so if one fails the others still work.

1 **Deter** **Make your facility the one thieves skip.**

Visible cameras and signage, lighting across yards and docks, solid fencing and gates, monitored alarm decals.

2 **Detect** **Know the moment someone is where they should not be.**

AI cameras that alert on people or vehicles along the fence line after hours, door and motion sensors, alarms on gates and power feeds.

3 **Control** **Decide who gets in, where and when.**

Card or mobile access by zone, gate control with call boxes and plate readers, visitor sign-in, locked tool cribs, cages and server rooms.

4 **Respond** **Get the right response, fast.**

24/7 UL-listed central station monitoring over cellular, video-verified alarms for faster police response, phone alerts for managers.

5 **Record** **Have the evidence when you need it.**

High-resolution video of every gate, dock and door, plate capture, 30 to 60+ days of storage, and access logs tied to video.

Where to start: fence-line and gate cameras with after-hours alerts, a monitored alarm that does not depend on a phone line, and card access you can shut off the day someone leaves.

A multi-sensor camera covering an entire parking lot from one mount.

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SECTION 6

YOUR PLANT, ZONE BY ZONE

Every facility is different, but the same zones show up in almost every plant we walk. Here is what we recommend in each.

Perimeter, fence line & yard

- AI cameras that alert on people and vehicles after hours
- Lighting with no dark stretches along fences and storage
- Cameras that can see a whole yard, plus thermal where lighting is hard

Gates & truck entrances

- Card, keypad or mobile gate access with logs
- License plate recognition on every vehicle in and out
- Video intercom call boxes for drivers and visitors

Shipping & receiving docks

- A camera on every door that reads trailer numbers
- Video of drivers and paperwork at pickup
- Door sensors that alert when a dock opens after hours

Production floor

- Overview cameras for safety incidents and claims
- Coverage of high-value machines and processes
- Cameras placed to protect people, not to watch them

Tool cribs, cages & scrap

- Card access on cribs, cages and metal storage
- Cameras on scrap bins, copper and high-value stock
- Access logs that show who opened what, and when

Offices, engineering & IT

- Access control on server rooms and engineering areas
- Visitor sign-in and escorts for restricted zones
- Cameras on a separate, secured network

Design principle: start from the outside in. Most theft begins at the fence, the gate or the dock, so that is where detection and video pay for themselves first.

A PDK reader on a perimeter gate.

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SECTION 7

THE TECHNOLOGY, EXPLAINED

What each system does for a plant. Every one is designed, installed and serviced by Michigan Security Systems.

Commercial & AI Cameras

High-resolution, multi-sensor, PTZ and thermal cameras, with AI that tells a person from a vehicle or an animal and searches hours of video in seconds.

michigancamerasystems.com/ai-security-cameras/

License Plate Recognition

Captures and logs every plate at your gates, so you know which vehicles came and went, and when.

michigancamerasystems.com/gate-perimeter-access/

Access Control

Card, fob, mobile and biometric access by door and by zone. Shut off a badge in seconds and see who opened every door.

michigancamerasystems.com/access-control/

Gate & Perimeter Access

Vehicle gates, call boxes, keypads and readers for yards, lots and truck entrances.

michigancamerasystems.com/gate-perimeter-access/

Alarms & 24/7 Monitoring

Intrusion detection on doors, docks and gates, monitored around the clock by a UL-listed central station over cellular.

michigancamerasystems.com/alarm-monitoring/

Video Intercom

See and talk to drivers and visitors at the gate or front door before you let them in.

michigancamerasystems.com/video-intercom/

Networks, Fiber & Wi-Fi

Fiber between buildings, wireless bridges for long distances, PoE switches and industrial Wi-Fi built to carry it all.

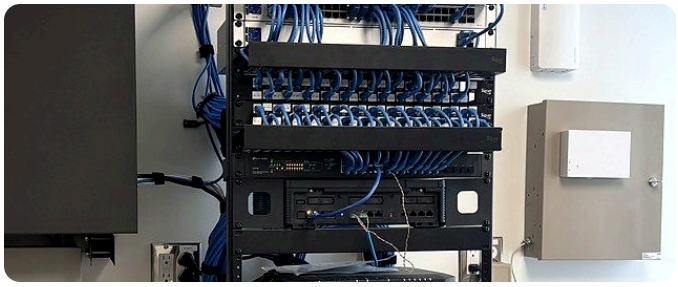
michigancamerasystems.com/network-cabling/

Repair & Takeover

We fix, upgrade and support systems other companies installed, often reusing the cabling you already have.

michigancamerasystems.com/security-camera-repair/

It all works best as one system: a gate opened after hours pops up on camera, the alarm is verified on video before police are called, and the badge log shows exactly who was inside.



A clean, labeled network rack we built.

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SECTION 8

COMPLIANCE & CUSTOMER REQUIREMENTS

Rules and customer demands that affect how Michigan manufacturers buy and run security systems.

CMMC for defense suppliers

The Department of Defense began including CMMC requirements in contracts on November 10, 2025. Suppliers handling Controlled Unclassified Information must meet NIST SP 800-171, which includes physical protection: limiting access to authorized people, escorting and monitoring visitors, and keeping logs of physical access.

NDAA Section 889 & banned cameras

Section 889 bars federal agencies from buying certain Chinese-made video equipment, including Hikvision and Dahua, and from contracting with companies that use it. If you sell to the federal government, the cameras on your walls matter.

OEM & customer security audits

Automakers and large customers increasingly send supplier security questionnaires. Access logs, visitor control and camera coverage of sensitive areas make those audits easier to pass.

The copper landline shutdown

AT&T is retiring copper phone lines across Michigan. Alarm panels, fire panels and elevator phones that dial out on a landline need a cellular or dual-path communicator before the line is cut.

Recording audio can break the law

Michigan's eavesdropping law makes it a crime to record private conversations you are not part of without consent. Video-only recording in work areas is generally fine; talk to your attorney before turning on microphones.

Prevailing wage on public projects

Public and government-funded jobs often require prevailing wage. Michigan Security Systems pays prevailing wage and includes it in public-project quotes, with certified payroll available.

This page is general information, not legal or compliance advice. Requirements depend on your contracts; check with your compliance advisor, attorney or contracting officer.

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SECTION 9

NDAA-COMPLIANT SECURITY, EXPLAINED

If you sell to the federal government, supply a company that does, or use federal grant or loan money, the brand of your cameras matters. Here is what the rules say.

What Section 889 is

Section 889 of the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act names five Chinese companies, **Huawei, ZTE, Hytera, Hikvision and Dahua**, plus their subsidiaries and affiliates. Their video surveillance and telecom equipment is treated as a national security risk.

Federal grants and loans

Under federal grant rules (2 CFR 200.216), grant and loan money cannot be used to buy covered equipment. Costs for it are unallowable and may have to be paid back.

Watch for relabeled cameras

Some cameras and recorders sold under other brand names are built by covered manufacturers. Check who actually made the equipment, not just the name on the label.

Federal contractors: it covers your whole company

Since August 2020, federal agencies cannot contract with a company that **uses** covered equipment as a substantial or essential part of any system, even in a plant that never touches the government job. Contractors must state whether they use it.

The FCC Covered List

In November 2022 the FCC voted to stop authorizing new equipment from these companies for public safety, government and critical infrastructure security, which affects future models, parts and support.

NDAA is not the same as TAA

Some federal purchases also require Trade Agreements Act (TAA) compliant products, based on where they are made. Ask which rule applies to your contract.

How we help you get compliant

- An inventory of every camera and recorder you have, with the real manufacturer
- A phased replacement plan that reuses your existing cabling where possible
- NDAA-compliant designs from brands such as Axis, Hanwha Vision, Avigilon and Digital Watchdog's compliant lines
- Written documentation of every device for your compliance file

Not doing government work today? Many Michigan suppliers sell to primes and OEMs that do, and those customers increasingly ask suppliers the same question. Buying NDAA-compliant now avoids paying to replace a system later.

Summary of Section 889 of the FY2019 NDAA, FAR representation requirements, 2 CFR 200.216 and FCC actions. General information, not legal advice; confirm requirements with your contracting officer or counsel.

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SECTION 10

SMART BUSINESS MOVES

Beyond the hardware: ways to get more value, lower risk and fewer surprises from your security investment.

Ask about insurance savings

Many insurers offer credits for monitored, UL-certified alarm systems, and clear video speeds up theft and liability claims. Ask your agent what documentation they want, such as an alarm certificate.

Look at Section 179

Security systems in nonresidential buildings can qualify for Section 179 expensing, which may let you deduct the cost in the year you install. Ask your tax advisor how it applies to you.

Lock down the cameras themselves

Put cameras on their own network, change every default password, keep firmware updated, turn off unneeded cloud and port-forwarding features, and use secure remote access. This is how cameras stop being a back door.

Write a video and privacy policy

Decide who can view and export video, how long it is kept, and post signage. Never place cameras in restrooms, locker rooms or other private areas.

Union shop? Plan ahead

In a unionized workplace, adding or changing cameras can be a subject of bargaining. Talk with your labor counsel before a project starts.

Plan for emergencies

Panic buttons, lockdown, paging to every area and visitor sign-in help with workplace violence, severe weather and evacuations.

Keep it running

Battery backup for recorders and network gear, alerts when a camera goes offline, and a service plan mean the system works on the night you need it.

Use video for safety, too

Reviewing near-misses and incidents on video helps with training, root-cause analysis and disputed claims.

General information, not tax, legal or insurance advice. Talk to your advisors about your situation.

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SECTION 11

WHAT DOES A PLANT SECURITY SYSTEM COST?

Honest ranges from real Michigan projects, so you can plan before anyone visits.

$2,500+
Starting point for a 4-camera commercial system, installed

$2,500 - $18,000
Typical range for most single-building camera systems

$15,000 - $30,000+
Multi-building campuses and large facilities

$400 - $1,500
Per camera, all-in, depending on camera type and install difficulty

$1,200 - $2,000
Per door for installed access control

What moves the price in a plant

- Ceiling heights and lift rental
- Long cable runs, fiber between buildings or wireless bridges
- Number of gates, docks and access points
- Recording storage and retention days
- Reusing existing cable and equipment in good shape
- Monitoring and service plans

How to budget smart

- Protect the perimeter, gates and docks first; expand inside later
- Phase projects across budget years with one design
- Buy NDAA-compliant gear if you do or may do government work
- Ask your insurer whether monitored systems lower your premium
- Get a fixed written quote before work starts

What a professional installation should include

Free on-site walk-through and design	Written, fixed quote	Commercial-grade, NDAA-compliant equipment
Clean, labeled cabling	Every camera aimed and tested	Passwords changed and firmware updated
Cameras on their own network	Staff training before we leave	Warranty and a local number that answers

Ranges are typical Michigan Security Systems projects and are not a quote. Your price depends on your facility; a free on-site assessment gives you an exact number.

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SECTION 12

YOUR 20-POINT SECURITY SCORECARD

Check every statement that is true for your facility today. Give yourself one point for each.

- ☐ **1.** The full fence line and yard are on camera, day and night
- ☐ **2.** You get an alert when someone enters the yard after hours
- ☐ **3.** Every gate captures license plates
- ☐ **4.** Every dock door has a camera that reads trailer numbers
- ☐ **5.** Cameras can identify a face, not just a shape
- ☐ **6.** Video is kept at least 30 days
- ☐ **7.** Someone checked this month that every camera is recording
- ☐ **8.** Managers can view cameras from their phones
- ☐ **9.** Cameras are on a separate network from production and office PCs
- ☐ **10.** Camera and recorder passwords are not the defaults
- ☐ **11.** Your cameras are NDAA-compliant (if you do government work)
- ☐ **12.** Access is controlled by zone, not just at the front door
- ☐ **13.** A badge can be shut off the day someone leaves
- ☐ **14.** You know who opened which door, and when
- ☐ **15.** Tool cribs, cages and scrap areas have restricted access
- ☐ **16.** Visitors and contractors are signed in and escorted
- ☐ **17.** Your alarm is monitored 24/7 by a UL-listed central station
- ☐ **18.** Your alarm does not depend on a copper phone line
- ☐ **19.** Copper, power feeds and outdoor equipment are protected
- ☐ **20.** One accountable company installs and services your system

17-20

Strong. Keep it maintained.

12-16

Good start, real gaps to close.

0-11

High risk. Let’s talk soon.

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SECTION 13

10 QUESTIONS TO ASK ANY SECURITY INSTALLER

Whoever you hire, these questions separate a professional integrator from a box installer.

1. Have you secured plants like ours?

Ask for manufacturing examples. Plants need lifts, long runs and outdoor coverage.

2. Do you use subcontractors?

Ask who will actually be in your facility. With us, it is always our own licensed technicians.

3. Can you work around production?

Installation should be scheduled around shifts, shutdowns and safety rules.

4. Is the equipment commercial-grade and NDAA-compliant?

Consumer kits and banned brands cost more later.

5. How will the system be secured from hackers?

Changed passwords, updated firmware and a separate network should be standard.

6. How will you cover the yard at night?

Ask about lighting, thermal, AI alerts and plate capture.

7. Who owns the equipment and the video?

You should. Avoid contracts where leaving means losing your system.

8. How does the alarm communicate?

Cellular or dual-path, not a copper phone line that is being retired.

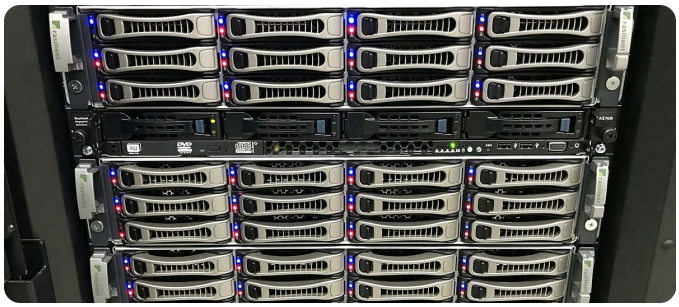
9. Will you reuse what I already have?

Good cable and newer cameras can often stay, saving real money.

10. Can I get a fixed written quote?

Know the full price, including any subscriptions, before work starts.

Red flags: pressure to sign today, long contracts for equipment you never own, no NDAA answer, “we’ll figure out storage later,” and nobody who can tell you who services the system.



A high-capacity recording server rack we installed and support.

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SECTION 14

OUR MANUFACTURING WORK & REVIEWS

Michigan Security Systems holds a 4.9-star Google rating across 88 reviews. Full project stories at michigancamerasystems.com.

J.G. Kern Enterprises · Sterling Heights

A Tier One automotive supplier: more than 7,000 feet of shielded cable, PDK access control on 10 access points, and a 42-camera system with a 60TB recording server now underway.

City of River Rouge · Police & City Hall

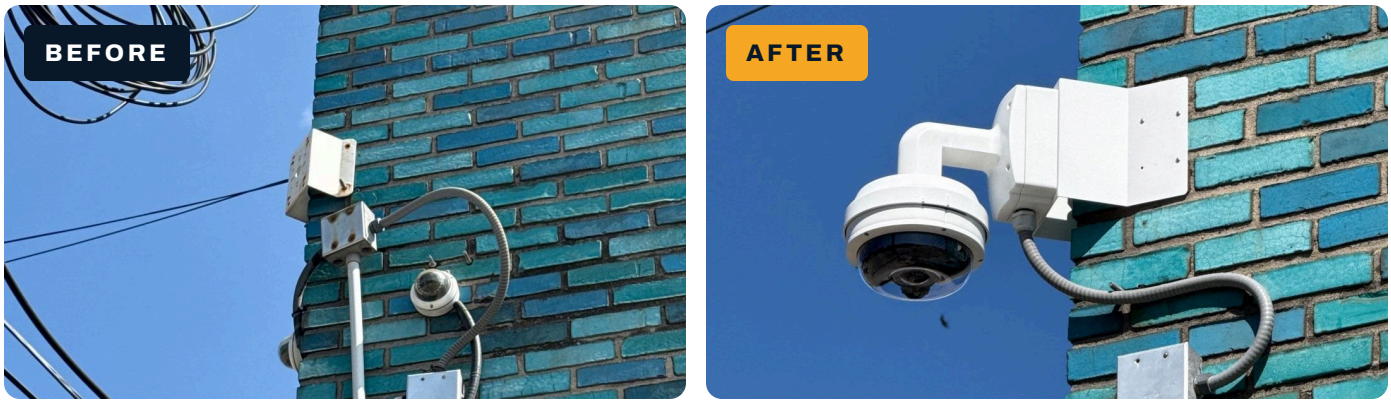
Selected over four competing integrators: 32 HD cameras, a 60TB recorder with 60+ days of retention and all-new cabling.

Kuppes Landscape · Clinton Township

Two other companies said to trench under a river. We used a wireless bridge instead and saved the client thousands.

IUOE Local 324 · Detroit & statewide

19 Digital Watchdog 8MP cameras, a new recorder, PDK cloud access control and a full alarm replacement, then a rollout to sites across Michigan.



River Rouge Police Department: an aging camera and loose cabling replaced with a new high-definition camera and clean, protected wiring.

★★★★★

“A large-scale, multi-faceted security and network integration for the State of Michigan and the Michigan State Police that spanned fifteen separate buildings… Their detailed planning and meticulous execution kept a project of this magnitude on track.”

Joseph Landers

Hudson Forensic Group

★★★★★

“They were on time and worked well with the other contractors on site. They bid the project accurately and delivered high quality service.”

Susan Styf

Director · Care of Southeastern Michigan

Trusted by Ford · the State of Michigan · Michigan State Police · IUOE Local 324 · manufacturers, municipalities and schools across Michigan

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MSSMFG26

1. Call 586-466-4490 or request a free assessment at michigancamerasystems.com
2. Mention code MSSMFG26 when you book
3. We walk your facility and give you a written quote with your 10% savings applied

Mention the code when booking. Applies to new system installations. Cannot be combined with other offers.

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SOURCES & NOTES

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13. SDM Magazine, “FCC expands ban on Hikvision, Dahua and other Chinese firms” (Nov 28, 2022).
14. Broadband Breakfast, “FCC Adopts Copper Retirement” (March 26, 2026); Michigan Compiled Laws, eavesdropping statute (MCL 750.539 et seq.).
15. Cost ranges: typical Michigan Security Systems commercial projects.

About Michigan Security Systems

Michigan Security Systems is a commercial-only security integrator serving Michigan since 2000. We design, install and service security cameras, access control, gate and perimeter systems, alarms and 24/7 monitoring, video intercoms, structured cabling, fiber and industrial Wi-Fi for manufacturers, warehouses, businesses and public agencies. Every installation is performed by our own licensed technicians, never subcontractors.

Areas we serve: Macomb, Oakland, Wayne, St. Clair, Livingston, Washtenaw and Genesee counties and communities across Michigan, plus Ohio and Indiana.

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