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Our New “Ring” Doorbell

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Technology is everywhere and finding places in our lives, even in the simplest activities. Take your doorbell, for example, just one button and a “ding-dong,” and that was it – someone was at your front door. So, what could be better than that simple signal system? Well, welcome to the new “tech” doorbells! Here is my experience installing and using a new “Ring” brand doorbell (cost is about $100 to $200 depending upon the model).

Our new doorbell has a built-in video camera. It can video any activity around your front door and is motion-activated. So, in reality, anyone coming near your front door doesn’t have to touch the button at all. The doorbell itself was not that difficult to install and can be attached to your existing doorbell wires. If you do, it will still ring your old doorbell chime or ringer when the button is pressed. This is nice that the “old” technology is still used with the new. The new doorbell is powered by batteries which will have to be changed or charged when needed – and it sends you a “low battery” message to let you know.

Now for the interesting (and hopefully fun) part – the new doorbell connects (wirelessly) to your home Wi-Fi network. Now you can have almost any of your other devices work with (that is, to be connected to) your new doorbell. Your iPhone, for example, should have the “Ring” app installed on it, and you use this app to adjust and change your doorbell settings and options. For example, our doorbell was being activated by a car driving down our street, so I adjusted the sensitivity to make it less “sensitive.” In addition to your iPhone, if you have an iPad, an Alexa, or other internet devices, they also may be connected. This means when someone gets near to your front door, these devices will play or speak a notice that there is someone near your door, even if they never pressed the actual button. So you are notified, for example, if a package was placed at your front door on your iPhone wherever you are. This is a very nice convenience and worth the cost of the doorbell alone. If you are not at home and get a tone/notice on your iPhone that someone has pressed the button, you can see who it is and TALK to them too! You can say you are not at home or in the bathroom or anything you want. Pretty neat, right? But there is more.

You get a “live” video of what is happening at your front door anytime you want, from your iPhone or another device. Also, as an option for a small monthly cost, the camera will record videos of all activity for you to look at later. (Without paying the additional fee, you can only see a “live” video). The “Ring” company has a program to make “safer neighborhoods” by using their doorbells as security cameras. So, these new doorbells are yet another “internet” device connected to all your other devices.

There are, however, some drawbacks that we have discovered in addition to adjusting the “sensitivity” level. We recently had to install a new home internet modem/router. This means ALL our internet devices, including the doorbell, had to be changed to connect to the new Wi-Fi ID (and password if required). Considering all the devices, including phones, printers, laptops, tablets, etc., was very troublesome and time-consuming. Another drawback is the frequency of front door activities. If you get frequent deliveries from Amazon, for example, all your devices connected to the doorbell will be sounding an alarm each time. Hopefully, you can find the correct settings and notifications that suit you best.

Overall, it is a great and fun device and, in my opinion, worth the cost. And keep in mind even if you do not purchase one for yourself, your neighbors probably have them! So don’t do anything funny in anyone’s front yard; you may find yourself in a video on the internet!



