



Photo: STANLEY Healthcare Solutions

Wandering management

Snapshot

Pricing based on number of people to protect: The technology used, as well as terms of a service agreement, can bring wide variances. Inquire evenly in order to bring apples-to-apples comparisons.

Average price: Number of doors and sizes of areas to be monitored vary from job to job; all projects are customized. Equipping doors for detection can vary from about \$1,000 to five times that amount.

Typical delivery time: At least a week, but remember that installation time can add a lot

Typical delivery charges: Deliver is usually included in terms of a sale

Average life span of product: 12 years, though technology advances likely will bring tweaks before then

Power sources: Battery, electric

Installation: Vendor-recommended or supplied installers are overwhelmingly the way to go.

Average maintenance costs per year: Batteries (which come with varying lifespans) and transmitter replacements (roughly \$200 to \$250) are the biggest considerations

Buyers Notes

- Invest in technology — don't shy away from getting some of the most current, effective hardware, and software. It changes often enough, so you want to start as cutting edge as possible.
- Don't think about monitoring just doors or possible "escape" routes. Consider how to monitor residents who might wander improperly into others' private spaces, too.
- Whether Wi-Fi or RFID is right for you depends on specific needs.

"Make sure that the device used by the client is both comfortable and respectful. If it's attractive, it seems more respectful. It can't look clunky or institutional."

— Naomi Prendergast, MPH, President and CEO, D'Youville Life & Wellness Community, Lowell, MA

(Figures cited are averages of all respondents' answers. Actual pricing will vary due to volume, bundling and other factors of a purchase.)

Sources: Direct Supply, Momentum Healthcare Technologies, Skynet Healthcare, STANLEY Healthcare Solutions

For a list of vendors go to the: SAFETY & SECURITY section, pages 173-175