

# Paranormal Investigation Equipment

**Digital Camera:** Take as many photographs of the scene as possible from many different positions. Since many spirits are detected from a person's peripheral vision areas, it might be possible to photograph spirits if the photograph is taken at different angles. Some paranormal researchers advocate using film cameras rather than digital in vigils. The advantages of digital are:

- The ability to see pictures straight away and try again if they're not good
- Only print or keep the photos you want
- Copy pictures around digital media without loss of quality
- No need for negatives, development or chemicals (and the delays they entail)
- EXIF data records your exposure settings and date and time
- Change light sensitivity, resolution and color balance easily, as you go
- You can play with your pictures at home on your own computer
- Color reproduction is better

**Film Camera:** Film cameras are handy to use during paranormal investigations, especially if infrared film is used. Infrared film picks up images that often cannot be seen by the naked eye. Because infrared film illuminates hot spots any unusually dark areas could also indicate a spirit presence.

The advantage to film is:

- It is more difficult to manipulate in a computer, so is therefore considered to be more authentic.

**Tape Recorder:** Often sounds from paranormal events cannot be heard by human ears, but can be picked up on a tape recorder. **EVP** stands for electronic voice phenomena. It is also sometimes called ITC or instrumental transcommunication. However, this is a broader term (also including apparent communication with discarnate entities via TVs, telephones, computers, etc.). EVP tends to refer more narrowly to using sound recording devices to capture voices not heard by witnesses present at the time.

It is also a good idea to tape interviews with witnesses so there is no question as to what was said, as well.

**Gauss Master/EMF Meter :** EMF meters can detect either magnetic, electric or both types of fields together. The meter offers an easy-to-read analog scale, a unique built-in audio signal and an auto shut off switch when not picking up energy changes. It's hand-held, lightweight and easy to use in both light and dark locations. Electric fields are measured in volts per metre (V/m) and magnetic fields usually in milliGauss (mG) or nanoTesla (nT).



**LASER INFRARED THERMOMETER :** Cold spots have been associated with paranormal activity since before people were ghosthunting. This pistol-grip meter (with laser pointer for pinpoint accuracy) will measure temperatures from 0° all the way up to 600°F at a safe distance. Offers an amazing 2% accuracy and a resolution of 1°F. This pocket-sized thermal scanner measures temperatures down to 0 degrees with amazing accuracy and is considered essential in investigations for measuring extreme changes in temperature and paranormal activity. Takes instant readings by simply pushing the trigger and has a back-lighted display for viewing in dark locations. Use it to instantly measure the IR temperature of walkways, hallways, doorknobs, mirrors or anywhere you suspect some activity. It works by measuring the 'black body' radiation emitted by a remote object. This wavelength of this radiation is related to the temperature of the object. It does not pick up the temperature of the air between the object and thermometer.



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**HandyCam Recorder:** This is a good way to document the investigation, and to document interviews. I don't know if anyone has ever captured a spirit on a video or digital recording, but there's always a first time!

**Flashlight:** Many times paranormal activity occurs in low light areas and situations. Flashlights help prevent injury when investigating in low light situations. Use the smallest, easiest to carry flashlight that you can.

**Compass:** It's a good idea to have a compass to get your bearings as of what area of a building or a room that is being investigated is located in. The time of day and sun exposure of a location would help to eliminate the presence of sun reflections. Since compasses work on magnetism, a disfunctioning compass may also be an indication of paranormal activity.

**Walkie Talkies:** If there is more than one investigator in more than one location at a site, always use Walkie Talkies to communicate with each other. It is a good way to make sure everyone is accounted for, in case someone falls or suffers an accident during the investigation.

**Extra Batteries:** Probably the most frequently reported equipment problem reported on vigils is battery 'draining'. There are two types of battery to consider; rechargeable and non-rechargeable. Make sure you bring along a good supply of extra batteries. You want to make sure you have plenty of replacement power.

**Eyes, Noses and other natural senses:** These are things you carry around with you at all times. Document anything you may see or smell that is out of the ordinary. Many times paranormal activity is accompanied by strong smells, i.e. perfume, cigar or cigarette, etc. It is a good rule of thumb for ladies and gentlemen not to wear any perfume, cologne or aftershave when investigating. And, when in the presence of paranormal activity, often the hair on your arms and the back of your neck will stand at attention. I wouldn't have believed this had it not happened to me many times.

**Pad or Notebook and Pencil or Pen:** It is a good idea, if possible, to have one person take notes during an investigation. This person should wear a watch and document times and activities of the group or individual investigator.

**Investigative Partner:** No one should **EVER** investigate paranormal activity alone! Not only is this dangerous, (because of a possible accident occurring while investigating, ) but also, there should always be a witness to the events.