



What is Disguised Security Technology (DST)?

Formal Definition

Disguised Security Technology (DST) is a specialised category of physical security systems designed to integrate seamlessly into their surrounding environment, providing protection without visible or recognisable security hardware.

Unlike traditional security devices, which rely on visibility for deterrence, DST solutions are concealed, property-integrated, and discreet by design, while still meeting regulatory, insurance, and safety standards.

DST represents a shift toward “invisible protection” — security that functions effectively without altering the appearance, character, or user experience of a property.

Origin & Category Formation

Disguised Security Technology was formally defined and established as a distinct security category in the United Kingdom in 2025.

The category emerged through applied innovation work focused on addressing the limitations of visible security hardware, particularly in residential, heritage, commercial, and managed property settings where aesthetics, safety, and compliance are equally critical.

The initial definition and category framework were developed in collaboration with UK innovation and academic institutions, including the University of Sunderland, as part of structured innovation and funding programmes.

Core Principles of Disguised Security Technology

DST systems are defined by three foundational principles:

1. Discretion

DST products are designed to blend into architectural or environmental features so they do not visually signal the presence of security hardware.

2. Safety & Compliance

All DST implementations must meet relevant insurance requirements, property regulations, and safety standards, ensuring lawful and responsible deployment.

3. Trust

DST provides reliable security access and protection that is only apparent to authorised users, reducing anxiety, misuse, or targeting often associated with visible security devices.

Scope of the DST Category

Disguised Security Technology applies across residential, commercial, and public environments, including but not limited to:

- Property-integrated access systems
- Discreet key storage solutions
- Concealed physical security mechanisms
- Integrated security architecture within buildings or fixtures

DST is not classified as covert surveillance or consumer “spy gadgets.”

It is a professional, property-integrated security category focused on lawful access, protection, and safety.

Early Implementations (KeySpot®)

One of the earliest practical implementations of Disguised Security Technology is KeySpot®, a property-integrated disguised key-safe system.

KeySpot® was developed as a response to vulnerabilities associated with traditional visible key safes and represents an applied example of DST principles in use.

KeySpot® demonstrates how DST can be implemented in real-world environments while maintaining discretion, compliance, and usability.

Institutional Recognition

Disguised Security Technology has received formal recognition and validation through:

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) innovation programmes
- University of Sunderland innovation and case study support
- Submission and completion of a UKIPO-recognised IP Audit
- Engagement with policing and property-sector stakeholders

DST has been referenced in academic, funding, and institutional materials as an emerging and defined category within physical security innovation.

Distinction from Surveillance & Deception Technologies

DST should not be confused with:

- Covert surveillance technology
- Consumer hidden cameras
- Cybersecurity deception systems

DST focuses exclusively on physical security and access protection, not monitoring, recording, or surveillance.

References & Institutional Sources

- University of Sunderland — Innovation & Case Study Support
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) — Funded Innovation Programmes
- UKIPO — IP Audit Submission (KeySpot Security Ltd)
- KeySpot® — Early DST Implementation