

BACKWATCH

MDVR Storage Selection & Fleet Rollout Checklist

Practical guide: choose and deploy the right storage
for your mobile DVR fleet — SD, SSD or HDD

How to use this checklist

Work through each phase before and during your MDVR storage rollout. Tick each item when complete. Share with the responsible person named for each step.

Phase 1: Audit & Planning

Step	Deliverable	Who
■ Audit current installs	Inventory CSV of media type, capacity, free space, SMART logs	Ops Manager
■ Define retention policy	Days of footage retained per vehicle class	Ops Manager
■ Choose storage architecture	Per-vehicle mapping (SD / SSD / HDD / Hybrid)	Technical Lead
■ Procure surveillance-grade parts	PO with warranties and MTBF data	Procurement

Phase 2: Testing & Preparation

Step	Deliverable	Who
■ Lab test batch units	Test reports: burn-in, power-cut, vibration, thermal	QA / Installer
■ Create labels & asset tags	Printed tags and media log template	Installer
■ Train installers & drivers	SOP for swapping, chain-of-custody and reporting	Training
■ Configure safe shutdown	Power-loss config or supercap installed	Installer

Phase 3: Pilot & Rollout

Step	Deliverable	Who
■ Implement remote monitoring	Alerting dashboard for SMART / errors	IT
■ Pilot deployment (5–10 vehicles)	Pilot report after 30–90 days	Ops
■ Review logs & tweak	Pilot lessons and updated SOP	Technical Lead
■ Full rollout & schedule	Replacement & audit calendar	Ops Manager

Quick Decision Guide

Rideshare / taxis	SSD (fixed); fallback: 128 GB high-endurance microSD	SSD 250 GB surv.
Small delivery van	SSD; SD for short routes	SSD 500 GB surv.
Urban bus	SSD + HDD archive	SSD 1 TB + HDD 4 TB
HGV / long-haul truck	SSD (industrial)	SSD 1 TB industrial
Depot / NVR archive	HDD array + SSD cache	HDD RAID 10

■ Red Flags — Stop Before You Deploy

- Using consumer (non-surveillance) SD or SSD in a 24/7 recording environment
- No vibration-dampening mount for SSD or HDD in vehicle
- No SMART monitoring or replacement threshold set
- No safe-shutdown / power-loss protection configured
- Drivers allowed to swap media without chain-of-custody process
- No burn-in test before fleet rollout