

24/7 ACCESS PRE-PURCHASE CHECKLIST

A 24/7 access system has one real job: every time someone taps in, decide whether the person outside still pays you. The lock is the easy part. Work through this before you buy anything, starting with the five-minute check that catches the most common surprise.

Gym: _____
Hours to go unstaffed: _____
Date: ____/____/____

STEP 1 · CHECK YOUR FOBS FIRST the single most common surprise in the whole project

CHECK	YOUR ANSWER
Find one of your current fobs. What frequency is it?	☐ 125 kHz (older) ☐ 13.56 MHz NFC ☐ Don't know yet
How many fobs are in members' pockets right now?	_____
If they're 125 kHz, newer readers can't read them. Budget new fobs from day one.	New fobs needed: _____
Fob budget. Standard 13.56 MHz fobs run roughly \$17 to \$20 per 100.	\$ _____
Don't know how to tell? The fob's supplier or the old system's paperwork will say. If neither turns up, ask the installer to test one before you sign.	

STEP 2 · FOB, PHONE, OR BOTH members don't agree on this, and they never will

WHO	PLAN
Kids without phones, older members, anyone who won't open an app at 6 AM with cold hands	☐ Fob
Members who'd rather leave the fob at home	☐ Phone ☐ Fob as backup
Everyone, at a phone-first gym. The fob is the one that keeps working when the router doesn't.	☐ Hand out fobs anyway

STEP 3 · ASK EVERY VENDOR take this into every sales call; a vendor who can't answer one gets an N

QUESTION	VENDOR A	VENDOR B
THE DOOR READS YOUR ROSTER		
Does the door check for an active membership before it opens, every tap?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Freeze, cancel, or lapse: does the fob stop working with no manual revocation? If someone has to revoke people by hand, you've just hired yourself as the sync layer.	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Is the access list the same list as your membership roster, with nothing to keep in sync?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
HOW MEMBERS GET IN		
Can each member choose a fob or their phone, on the same door?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Does every member get their own fob, and can you kill one without touching the rest?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
WHEN THINGS GO WRONG		
Do fobs keep working when the gym's internet drops (a cached member list at the door)?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Does phone unlock need a live connection? If yes, plan to hand out fobs anyway.	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
One company, one number to call, for the software, the hardware, and the install?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Is tailgating covered by a camera option that counts people per entry? No fob stops tailgating. If a vendor says theirs does, note it here.	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N
Can you assign specific doors to specific memberships or areas?	☐ Y ☐ N	☐ Y ☐ N

The first three rows cut deepest. A standalone access platform with its own login and its own monthly charge has no idea who stopped paying. Someone has to keep the two lists matched, and that job gets forgotten on a Friday.

DOORS AND DOLLARS

STEP 4 · COUNT YOUR DOORS one controller runs up to four, so the per-door cost drops as you add them

DOOR	WHO GETS THROUGH IT (MEMBERSHIPS OR AREAS)	UNSTAFFED HOURS	CAMERA?
Front door	Everyone with an active membership		☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
			☐
Doors: ____		Controllers needed (doors ÷ 4, rounded up): ____	

STEP 5 · THE COST MATH two parts, and the honest picture includes both

A. One-time hardware and installation (from the quote)	\$
B. Monthly access fee	\$
C. Front-desk hours the door replaces, per month	
D. What you pay a front-desk person per hour	\$
E. Monthly labor the door stands in for (C × D)	= \$
F. Months to pay back the install: A ÷ (E – B)	=

Gymdesk reference pricing: \$100 a month covers up to three devices, then \$29 a month per device, on your Gymdesk bill. A single door runs roughly \$3,100 to \$3,400 all in for controller, reader, and professional install. Treat that as a planning number until your own install is quoted.

STEP 6 · QUOTES SIDE BY SIDE write down what each vendor actually said

ITEM	VENDOR A	VENDOR B
One-time quote, hardware and install		
Monthly fee, and how it scales per device		
Who does the install		
Who you call when a door won't open		
Camera add-on for tailgating, if you want it		
Anything that surprised you		

Before you flip the switch. Access control covers who gets in and when. Liability, insurance, emergency coverage, and house rules are a separate question. Read [running a 24-hour gym safely](#) first.

Decision. ☐ Vendor A ☐ Vendor B ☐ Not yet

Install date: ____/____/____ Fobs ordered: ☐