



At-a-Glance: Tools and Technology for Safety and Wandering Prevention

This guide is provided by the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) as an informational resource for individuals concerned about a loved one at risk of wandering. It is not an all-inclusive list, nor does it imply endorsement or recommendation of any specific product, service, or company. Prices/Product details are determined by the manufacturer and subject to change. The ADRC is not responsible for updates or accuracy. The use of any device listed does not replace appropriate supervision or oversight. It is the responsibility of the individual(s) to contact companies directly to verify features, pricing, and suitability. Additional considerations included to help select tools that best match individual needs.



Non-Tech Support

- **Address underlying causes:** Activities, engagement, or respite reduce boredom and exit-seeking. Use sensory tools and items like fidget boards, weighted lap pads, or stuffed comfort items.
- **Visual & Physical Deterrents:** Affordable barriers such as bright STOP banners, concealing exit doors or confounding door locks do not rely on any technology but offer effective visual or physical deterrence. (“DO NOT OPEN, [Name]” “Closed for Cleaning”).
- **Orientation & daily structure:** Use a whiteboard in a shared area to list the day's schedule or agenda
- **Identification Bracelets & Jewelry**
Customized medical-style ID bracelets engraved with names, conditions, and emergency contact info

Low-Tech & Wi-Fi–Free Tools

- **Exit Alarms**
These devices alert caregivers when someone rises from a bed or chair—ideal for nighttime or rest periods using wearable or pad sensors.
- **Door & Cabinet Sensors**
These plug-in, expandable systems use door or motion sensors that trigger audible chimes or pager alerts without requiring internet—helping detect movement before wandering.
- **Audio/Visual Options:** Non-WiFi child monitors with real-time video/audio are useful for checking on someone in another room—ideal when mobility is limited. No smartphone or internet required.

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Determining What's Right for You

There are many different devices that support varying needs of the person with dementia, caregiving situations, and tech abilities. Ask yourself:

1. What safety concerns am I trying to address? (wandering, nighttime activity, falls, daily check-ins, etc.)
2. What is the goal of monitoring? (prevention, early alert, tracking patterns, emergency response)
3. Who will be using or managing the device? And do multiple caregivers need access or notifications?
4. How tech-savvy are the person living with dementia and the primary caregivers?

Cost and Sustainability

- Is there a monthly fee? Is the device a one-time purchase?
- Will this still meet our needs as dementia progresses?

Cognitive and Physical Abilities

- Will they wear a device? Or does it need to be concealed?
- Will they try to remove or disable the device?
- Does the device require press buttons, response to alerts?
- Device comfortable/familiar to reduce confusion or resistance?

Monitoring Needs

- What level of monitoring is needed? Is a door chime sufficient, or do I need a camera? indoor monitoring, outdoor, or both?
- Do I need a device that tells me where they are, or is location history or motion detection enough? Do I need real-time alerts?
- Does the device include fall detection, two-way communication, or geofencing?
- Are there specific areas (bedroom, doorways, exits) I'm most concerned about?

Ease of Use & Management

- Can I or other caregivers easily set up and manage the device?
- Is a smartphone, tablet, computer or wi-fi required to use?
- Will the system send alerts in a way that works for me (text, call, app notifications)?
- Are updates, charging, or maintenance simple to manage?
- Is tech support or customer service available and user-friendly?

Technology Compatibility

- Will this work with other systems I already use (e.g., smart locks, Alexa, medication reminders)?
- Can I share access or alerts with other family members or care professionals?

Privacy & Ethical Considerations

- How/Will I introduce the monitoring to my loved one?
- Is it respectful and appropriate given their stage of dementia?
- Privacy concerns?

Identification Wristbands & Jewelry

Device	Website/Phone	~Price	Water Resistant?	Feature(s)	Device Type
Stretch Bracelet	roadid.com 800-345-6336	\$	Yes (silicone)	Personalized engraving (name, condition, emergency contact)	Identification Bracelet
Nylon Loop Bracelet	roadid.com 800-345-6336	\$	Yes	Stainless steel plate, hygienic and durable	Identification Bracelet
Lauren's Hope Medical ID Bracelet	laurenshope.com 800-360-8680	\$\$	Yes	Engraving of dementia info and emergency contacts	Identification Jewelry
American MedicalID	Americanmedical-id.com 800-363-5985	Varies	Yes	Many options/styles	ID bracelets and jewelry
DynoTag	dynotag.com	\$	Yes	Many styles/options	ID Tag, Wallet Cards

Tip: Search for other customizable bands/products on Amazon, Etsy, or at local pharmacies or jewelry stores offering engraving.

Alarms & Sensors

Device	Website/Phone	~Price	Subscription	Water Resistant?	Feature(s)	SOS / Motion Alert?	Device Type
Fall Fighter	cresthealthcare.com	Varies	No	No	Wireless pad, pager alert	Yes	Bed Sensor/Alarm
Alarms	KerrMedical.com 800-650-3637	Varies	No	No	Motion, chair, pagers, mats, proximity alarms/pagers	Yes	Variety of options
Wander Alert Door Kit	alzstore.com 800-752-3238	\$\$	No	-	Multiple option protection kit	Yes	Portable sensor, call pendant, motion detector
SafeWander Alarm	alzstore.com 800-752-3238	\$\$\$\$	No	Yes	Detects sit-up vs toss, alerts via app	Yes	Sensor
Nomo Smart Care	Nomosmartcare.com 844-888-8854	\$\$\$\$	Yes \$9.99/month	Tags-Yes	Sensor-based (no camera), Doors/Drawers, 10yr battery	Yes	AI technology Sensors
Alerta Patch	alzstore.com 800-752-3238	\$\$\$\$	No	Yes	6mos supply waterproof patches, worn upper back, audible alert	No	Wearable Patch

Tip: Choose the right tool for the right need—use bed/chair exit alarms for nighttime or fall risks, and door sensors near exits, stairs, or hazardous rooms.

To avoid alarm fatigue, place devices thoughtfully and test regularly. If you need help with installation, consider RSVP Handyman Service (608) 785-0500.

Video Cameras

Device	Website/Phone	~Price	Subscription	Water Resistant?	Bonus Feature(s)	Motion Alert?	Device Type
BabySense MaxView	babysensemonitors.com 833-568-2229	\$\$	No	No	2 cameras, split-screen, night-light, audio	Yes	Video Camera
BabySense HD S2	babysensemonitors.com 833-568-2229	\$\$\$\$	No	No	Non-WiFi, split-screen, audio and light	Yes	Video Camera
'Smoke Detector'	Amazon.com	\$\$	No	No	Discreet, 1080p and night vision, 150° View, Motion Detection & Offline Storage, Multi-User & Privacy Protection	Yes	Video Camera
REOLINK	Amazon.com	\$	No	Yes	2.4 GHz WiFi connection, AI Detection, versatile alarm options, recording option, corded	Yes	Video Camera
Blink	Target.com	\$\$	Optional	Yes	Cell phone alert, battery operated, smartphone app controlled, cloud storage, motion activated, 2-way communication, night vision	Yes	Video Doorbell
Ring	ring.com	Variety	Optional	Yes	Video cameras, Doorbell camera	Yes	Variety
Google Nest	store.google.com	\$\$\$	Optional	Yes	Wired or Battery, Google compatible	Yes	Video Doorbell
Wyze	www.wyze.com	\$-\$\$\$\$	Available	Yes	Motion sensors, monitor kits and service	Yes	Video Cameras

Privacy Caution: Video Monitoring for safety at home in Wisconsin is generally legal—but only when placed in areas where there is no reasonable expectation of privacy (e.g. entryways, living rooms). Avoid installing in bathrooms, bedrooms, or other intimate private spaces. Audio recording in Wisconsin requires one-party consent—meaning you must be part of the conversation (e.g. caregiver), to legally record audio.

GPS Tracking Technologies

Device	Website/Phone	~Price	Subscription?	Water Resistant?	Bonus Feature(s)	SOS	Geofencing? "Virtual Boundary"	Device Type
Safe Track	primetracking.com	\$	Yes- \$25/month	Yes	Unlimited range, Sim Card	Yes	Yes	Tracker
Spark Nano	Brickhousesecurity.com	\$	Yes- \$24-45/month	Yes		No	Yes	Tracker
Tracki	Tracki.com	\$	Yes	--	Small, 5 years of history	Yes	Yes	Tracker
Tack Tracker	alzstore.com	\$\$	Yes, \$69/year	Yes	30 day battery, wonder pouch to fix to clothing, fall detection, indoor elevation finder,	Yes		
Bay Alarm Medical	bayalarmmedical.com	\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	Fall detection option	Yes	Yes	Wearable
Jiobit	jiobit.com	\$\$\$	Yes	--	Clip-on, caregiver network	Yes*	Yes	Wearable
iTraq	itraq.com	\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	Temperature sensor	Yes	Yes	Tracker
PocketFinder	pocketfinder.com	\$\$\$	Yes- \$12/month	Yes	Compact, secure	Yes	Yes	Tracker
Medical Guardian	medicalguardian.com	\$\$-\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	Fall detection, auto alerts	Yes	some models	Wearable
AngelSense	angelsense.com	\$\$-\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	2-way speaker, fall detection	Yes	Yes	Wearable
Optimus	optimustracker.com	\$	Yes	--	Long battery life	—	Yes	Tracker
Theora Care	theoracare.com	\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	Watch w/ 2-way audio	Yes	Yes	Smartwatch

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Device	Website/Phone	~Price	Subscription?	Water Resistant?	Bonus Feature(s)	SOS	Geofencing? "Virtual Boundary"	Device Type
Smart Sole Insole	gpsmartsole.com	\$\$\$\$	Yes	Yes	Hidden in shoe, cell enabled	No	Yes	Shoe Insole
Freedom - Lok8u	www.alzstore.com/gps-tracker-for-elderly-p/0920.htm	\$\$\$\$	No	Yes	Locks on wrist, 30 day battery	Yes	-	Watch
Bouncie	bouncie.com	\$\$\$	Yes - \$9/month	Yes	OBD-plug GPS mapping and satellite tech, driving diagnostics, accident detection/notify	Yes	Yes	Vehicle Tracker
WearTech	wear-tech.com	--	-	Yes	AI-powered, Full battery life, Audio Control, Cell connectivity, Temp	Yes	Yes	Wearable
Band V2	Slatesafety.com	--	-	Yes	Measures biometric data, real time alerts, 24-100 battery life, Fall detection, Cellular connectivity	Yes	No	Band

*Caution: Devices like Tile, Apple AirTag, and other Bluetooth trackers are not reliable for real-time GPS tracking of a person, as they depend on proximity to nearby smartphones and do not provide continuous or independent location updates. Similarly, app-based location sharing tools (e.g., Life360, Geozilla, Apple Find My App) can be helpful in the early stages of dementia, when individuals are still using their smartphones regularly. However, as cognitive changes progress, these tools become less reliable and potentially unsafe due to issues like forgetting to carry or charge the phone, turning off location services, or deleting the app. These options should be viewed as short-term support. * Project Lifesaver is a safety program available through participating local law enforcement agencies—and not offered in La Crosse County.*

GPS Tracking and Privacy – Wisconsin Considerations: In Wisconsin, using a GPS tracking device requires consent from the individual or their legal representative. For individuals with dementia, it's important to discuss tracking early, ideally while the person can still participate in decisions. While GPS can support safety and independence, it should not replace supervision or personal care. Always prioritize privacy, document consent, and regularly reassess its use as needs change.