



Security Systems

Security systems can add an extra level of security to your home.

The Facts

- 1. Typically each year 3-4% of homes will be burgled with an equal number of unsuccessful attempts.*
- 2. Older people generally feel more vulnerable to crimes such as burglary.*
- 3. A security system is only effective if you use it correctly.*
- 4. A dog can be a companion and also a great deterrent for would be thieves.*

Types of security systems

There are a variety of different security systems that can be installed depending on your budget, circumstances and personal needs. These range from the very simple to the very complex; from basic alarms to complete monitored surveillance systems.

Personal security alarms

Personal security alarms are designed to attract attention if you are attacked or need assistance.

These alarms come in many forms from bracelets and pendants to key ring models and systems you can wear on your belt.

They are designed to emit an ear piercing alarm when activated to draw attention to the user.

These alarms are useful for your safety whilst at home but are probably better suited to providing protection whilst out. It should also be noted a personal alarm is just that; it is designed to protect a person not their property.

There is a security system to suit every need and budget.

Home security systems

There is a type of security system available to suit most needs. Some of the considerations you need to take into account when selecting and alarm for your home include:

- ease of use
- effectiveness for your particular circumstances
- installation costs
- ongoing maintenance costs

Non-monitored systems

Non-monitored systems set off a very loud alarm when activated and are deactivated by entering a code into a control panel.

Although the success of this type of alarm relies on someone being around to hear it they can also act as a great deterrent for would be thieves, particularly if there is a sign on the front fence or window to highlight their existence.

Monitored alarms

Monitored alarm systems employ many of the same principles as their non-monitored cousins with an audible alarm and control panel with pass code for deactivating the alarm.

However, the very large difference is that these alarms are monitored every day, day and night by an external security service.

When the alarm is triggered and not deactivated within a certain time the monitoring service will perform pre-determined actions which could include attempting to contact the residence to ensure the activation is not a false alarm, dispatching someone to check the property or putting a call through to the local police department.

As well as the cost of the installation of the alarm system there is a subscription fee for the monitoring and this can vary from company to company and system to system.

Alarm components

A basic alarm system will come with a control panel, sensors and a battery backup if it is a hard wired system.

The control panel is the central feature of your security system. It is the piece of equipment that receives the information from the sensors, sounds the alarm and alerts the monitoring service of an intrusion.

Other components vary depending on the system you select and could include:

- motion detectors
- door and window sensors
- CCTV units
- remote viewing units

Buyer beware

Alarm systems vary greatly in features, cost, usability and effectiveness so doing your homework before you buy is the only way to ensure you end up with a system that suits your needs.

DECISIONeasy

How secure is your home?

Complete a **Home Security Inspection** of your home and find out!

Download more **free Information Sheets**.

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