Perimeter Devices
These devices can be set whilst people and animals are actually in the protected room or area.

There are a number of types of devices (e.g. break glass and vibration detectors, etc.) and your alarm installer can give you further advice.

Alarm Sounders
External Sounders and Bell Box
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Internal Sounders
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Zones allow for the system to be part set, for example, at night the downstairs zone could be set whilst the rest of the system could be off.

Personal Attack Device
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Useful Contacts
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www.tradingstandards.gov.uk
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www.acpo.police.uk
www.securedbydesign.com
for police security information.

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Did You Know

- 80% of burglaries occur when there is nobody at home; most are not planned but committed by opportunists.
- An alarm can be part-set to cover areas that you are not occupying whilst at home.
- Some systems can cope with pets.
- Alarm wiring is already in place in many new houses.
- Wire-free alarms are available if you are worried about wiring in your house.
- Systems can include a personal attack alarm, invaluable if there is an intruder in the house — a typical location for one might be in the bedroom.

If you have decided your property would benefit from an alarm system, it is advisable to use a reputable alarm company who install to European Standards.

When investing in Security Systems for your home or business, it is not advisable to deal with telesales or doorstep callers. Only speak to installers that offer you a written quotation without obligation. Turn away any company that try and shock you into purchasing with stories of burglaries in your locality. If you feel a particular company has tried “hard sell” tactics you should consider contacting your local police or trading standards office.

Professional installers will:

- Thoroughly survey your home, assessing the risks and designing a system to your specific needs.
- Installing reliable up-to-date equipment that meets the relevant European Standards.
- Ensure their engineers are thoroughly trained.
- Explain to you fully and clearly how the system works.
- Ensure the alarm continues to work efficiently.
- Ensure that there is no damage or mess to décor and wiring is concealed where possible.

Audible Alarms

These sound a loud siren or bell, scaring the intruder and alerting neighbours and passersby. This type of alarm does not get an automatic police response. For the police to respond some additional information from a person at the scene that a criminal offence is in progress would have to be given.

DIY

DIY kits may provide a cheap alternative. However, the Association of Chief Police Officers does not recommend them for the following reasons:

- The alarm system may not be designed to meet the needs and risks of your property.
- Problems with installation, maintenance and reliability may not become clear until a burglary has occurred.

Remote Signalling Alarms

These alarms send a signal to a commercial “Alarm Receiving Centre” (ARC) who alert a keyholder of your choice, and, if required, the police. There is an additional cost for this service. Also, for police response, the system has to be installed, monitored and maintained in accordance with the ACPO Policy on Police Response to Security Systems.

Guides on Commercially Monitored Remote Signalling Systems and the ACPO policy are available at www.acpo.police.uk and www.securedbydesign.com

Alarm Terminology

Detection

Movement Detectors

The most common form of movement detector is a passive infrared, but ultrasonic and microwave detectors are also used. These devices are usually mounted in the corner of a room and tuned to detect any movement, including animals, within the room. One detector can offer protection to a large room.

Magnetic Detectors

They activate when the magnetic field between contacts is broken.
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Burglars want easy pickings and will avoid effective security. Government statistics have shown that approximately 50% of burglaries on homes fitted with burglar alarms are unsuccessful, suggesting that alarms are a useful deterrent.

Before you buy a security system follow our advice to help you through the technology of intruder alarms.