

HOME SECURITY



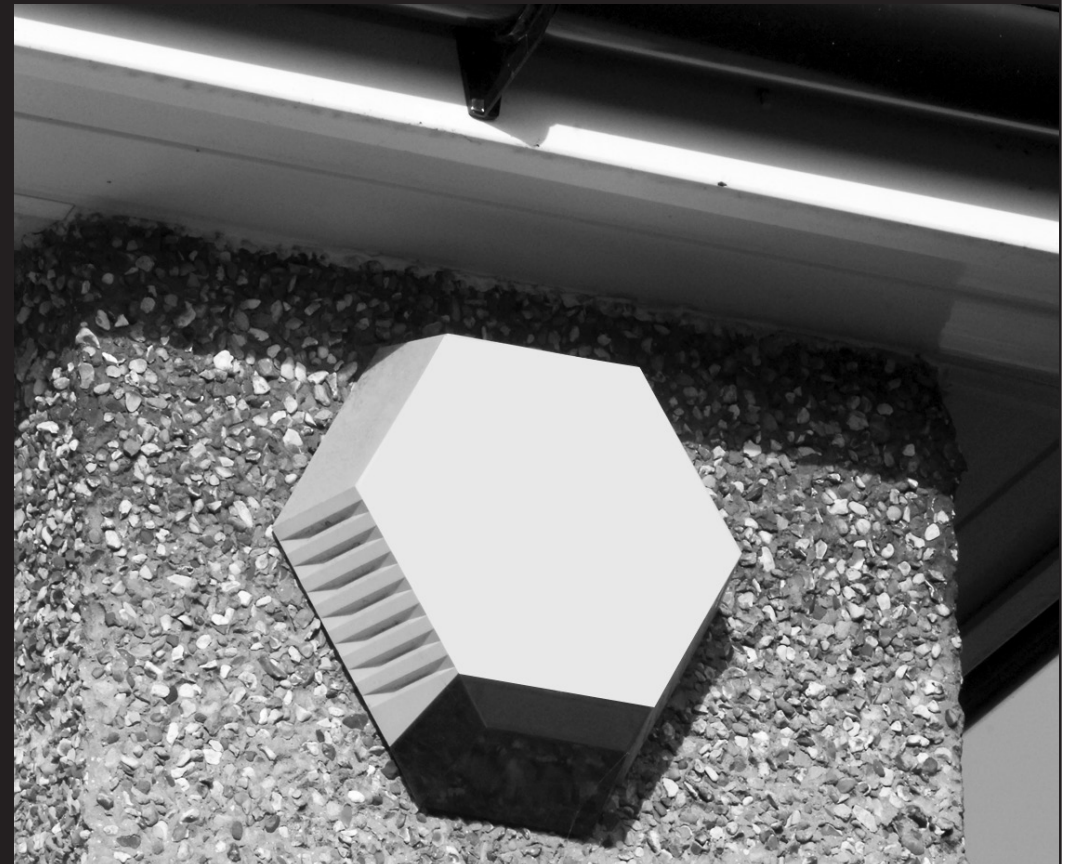
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Alarms



Burglar alarms

Many burglars will avoid breaking into a property that has an alarm. There are many alarm systems on the market. These range from fairly cheap alarms, which you can fit yourself, to more sophisticated systems, costing hundreds of pounds, which need to be installed by professionals.

Consider whether you need an audible-only alarm (which sets off a siren or bell) or a monitored alarm (connected to a central 'listening' service). Due to the huge number of false alarms, police will only respond to audible alarms if there is confirmation of suspicious activity – such as a neighbour saying they saw someone or heard glass being broken.

For monitored systems, the monitoring company will check whether any alarm was false – for example, set off by the homeowners entering the wrong access code, and call out the police if necessary. Monitored systems are particularly important for isolated properties.



If you are thinking about installing a burglar alarm, you should do the following:

- Get at least three quotes and specialist advice from companies that supply alarms. Use companies registered with either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or security Systems and Alarm Inspection Board (SSAIB)
www.nsi.org.uk or www.ssaib.org
- Talk to your insurance company about the alarm companies it recommends before you decide which best suits your needs. The system should meet **European Standard EN50131-1**
- Get professional help to install the alarm and to explain how to operate it correctly to make sure that it will work properly.

Remember, an alarm that is not- fitted properly can create problems in itself. Don't fit an alarm yourself unless you have the electrical knowledge and practical skills to do so, it could end up costing you more.