



## Intruder Alarms – Summary of Features and Sources of Information

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**PLEASE NOTE THAT ESSEX POLICE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY PARTICULAR PRODUCT OR SUPPLIER.**

If you are considering an intruder alarm system it is advisable to seek advice from installers who are members of a professional body, such as: -

**National Security Inspectorate**, Sentinel House, 5 Reform Road, Maidenhead SL6 8BY **Telephone: (switchboard): 01628 637512** – [www.nsi.org.uk](http://www.nsi.org.uk)

**SSAIB** The Smoke Houses, Cliffords Fort, North Shields, Tyne & Wear NE30 1JE **Telephone: 0191 296 3242** – [www.ssaib.co.uk](http://www.ssaib.co.uk)

**British Security Industry Association (BSIA)**, Kirkham House, John Comyn Drive, Worcester, WR3 7NS – **Telephone 0845 389 3889** - [www.bsia.co.uk](http://www.bsia.co.uk)

For other security products that have 'Police Preferred Specification' status visit Secured by Design – [www.securedbydesign.com](http://www.securedbydesign.com)

Systems should be fitted to British/European Standards - [www.bsi-global.com](http://www.bsi-global.com)

Always get at least 3 different approved installers to give you quotes before you decide.

Systems can be **monitored** at special centres (Alarm Reporting Centres), for a fee. Reputable installers will give you more information on this, including an alternative option to link the alarm to alert mobile telephone numbers selected by you.

**Essex Police** respond to **monitored alarm systems** in accordance with guidelines issued by the **Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)** - [www.acpo.police.uk](http://www.acpo.police.uk) Phone 020 7084 8950.

Generally, **Non- monitored alarm systems** are not responded to unless the person reporting the activation says that an intruder has actually been seen to enter or be on the premises.

The **speed of police response cannot be guaranteed**. It will depend upon the number, location and availability of police units when the call is received and a police assessment of the threat level.

**DIY** outlets often sell intruder alarm systems. However, bear in mind that these are normally non-monitored systems. False activations can annoy neighbours and result in action by the Environment department at your local council. If you have one of these systems you need a trusted friend, neighbour, or family member who lives close by and can deal with activations in your absence.

Some systems can be linked to your telephone and programmed to alert specific personal telephone numbers (normally up to 6) if activation occurs. Your telephone provider may make an extra rental charge for this facility. You will probably still need a trusted local person to respond in your absence.

Some mail order type companies market a whole range of alarms. You can see examples of these on web sites such as: -

- [www.solonsecurity.co.uk](http://www.solonsecurity.co.uk) (Tel: 01352 762266)
- [www.jnemarketing.com](http://www.jnemarketing.com) (Tel: 01978 855054)
- [www.sure24.co.uk](http://www.sure24.co.uk) (Tel: 01949 836990)

**(There are other providers).**

Generally speaking, any intruder alarm is probably better than none. However, your choice should always be based on the following considerations: -

- Is it appropriate?
- Is it realistic?
- Is it cost effective?
- What am I trying to protect?

The above information is a basic summary of intruder alarm systems.

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**Source – Essex Police**

