



A Buyer's Guide to Burglar Alarms

The true cost of burglary is not just what they take, it's what they leave behind. Many burglary victims report an increased desire to move home following a robbery.

Matters Group alarm systems are effective deterrents to burglars, and offer 24/7 protection to help you avoid the emotional trauma of being a victim.

The mere sight of a Matters Group bell box is enough to make most thieves turn and walk away. When asked, 93% of reformed burglars said they'd be put off by a monitored intruder alarm that's monitored and responded to 24/7/365.

From Matters wireless alarm systems complete with lifesaving smoke and poisonous gas detection, to our intelligent home automated security solution, choose a Matters Group home security systems and get the best protection for what you hold dear.

Combining the latest in security and home automation technology, our systems lets you connect and manage your smart home security through your smartphone, tablet or PC – anytime, anywhere.

How to Choose a Burglar Alarm

There are many factors to consider when choosing which burglar alarm system is most suitable for you and your home or business. How expensive the equipment is, how customer-friendly the company is, and most importantly, what security features are offered. With so many factors to consider, we've put together some helpful information for you.

- **Monitored v's Unmonitored Alarm:** Deciding and the means by which a monitored alarm communicates with its monitoring centre.
- **Professional v's DIY Installation**

- **Wired/Wireless**
- **Home Automation:** The ability to control not just your security but also other various events in your home including lighting control, music & HDTV and climate control.

Should I have a monitored alarm?

Pro's of Unmonitored

Ease of Installation: Unmonitored systems are good for homeowners who are confident and like DIY projects. Typically, DIY systems are wireless, making installation fairly easy—most customers say they can install their systems in 30 or 40 minutes. The DIY installation option typically means that the customers own the equipment and can move it, so this tends to be the choice of renters or people who change addresses frequently or are have a limited budget.

Cons of Unmonitored Systems

Less Reputable: It's a sad fact that 33% of activated alarms go unnoticed. Having a professionally monitored security system is much more trusted and provides a higher level of security. With unmonitored systems, you're largely on your own. In the event of an alarm being activated would you want to put your neighbours and family at risk without police assistance?

No Experts back-up: Only monitored systems come with around-the-clock, 24/7 surveillance by a professional monitoring station, who can immediately send help to your home if necessary. This type of system will also come with a maintenance package to ensure system reliability at all times.

You Don't Get Automatic Response: Without professional monitoring, you won't be able to have police assistance automatically dispatched to your house in case of emergency. If someone does break into your home and you aren't there, you must just hope someone nearby notices or else you have to wait until you're home to report the problem. This might put you and your family in danger. Also it gives intruders all the time in the world to take their pick at your belongings. With a monitored system, the second the alarm is triggered the police are dispatched and on their way and the burglar's time is limited.

If you are in need of assistance due to burglary or a fire, monitored services are very valuable and you have the peace of mind an intrusion is acted upon immediately and not just ignored or dealt with by your friends and neighbours who could be at risk.

What should you do?

It's entirely up to you to decide if an unmonitored system is right for you. If you don't want monthly and additional fees or a contract, an unmonitored system might be best for you. But, if you want the added security of having constant surveillance and off-site protection, a monitored system fits the bill. It is hard to put a price on getting professional secure protection for your family.

It is important that you have the confidence that your system will be able to communicate effectively with your monitoring centre 24 hours a day, in case of an emergency. Consider the three ways your system can contact the monitoring centre when your alarm is triggered, and choose the one that best suits your home.

If you choose to have a monitored alarm you need to decide the means by which your alarm communicates with its monitoring centre. The options are singular (one method) or dual path (two methods) monitoring via IP (Internet Protocol), PSTN (telephone line) or Cellular (sim card).

Landline & IP

- Useful back-up to cellular or cost-effective single path transmission.
- Your system uses a landline phone connection to communicate with the monitoring centre when the alarm is triggered.
- The system itself can be wireless, it just requires a landline for monitoring.

Cellular

- Your system uses a cellular uplink (mobile phone sim) to communicate with the monitoring centre when the alarm is triggered. Often considered more reliable because your alarm system will not go down if the telephone lines are cut. Also, cellular monitoring is faster than a landline connection. Cellular security systems are 100% wireless and contact a monitoring centre through a cellular uplink instead of a landline or a broadband internet connection. Cellular monitoring is fast and has no wires to cut.
- At Matters we use world Sims that work on all 4 of the usual UK network providers.

Home Automation: Control Your Home from Your Phone

Home automation refers to the ways you can use a smartphone or other web-enabled device to remotely access your home's features beyond security

With home automation, you can remotely arm and disarm your system and control your lighting, thermostat, and entertainment systems.

Wouldn't it be handy to control your alarm with your phone?

If you want total control over your home, mobile access is a must. Most security systems let you arm and disarm your system from a key fob, smartphone, or web-enabled device.

Here is a list of actions that are included in most home automated systems:

- Arm and disarm your system
- Receive security alerts
- Access a complete history of your system's events
- Get real-time notifications
- View live video via security cameras
- Adjust lights and thermostat
- Set-up occupancy simulation sequences so it looks like someone is home
- Set custom notifications (Get notified via text, email, and video alerts when your children come home from school or when the cleaners arrive and leave)

Do you need security cameras?

Aside from catching an intruder in the act, there are quite a few instances where you might want security cameras. They come in handy when you're at home and when you're away. When you're at home, you can keep an eye on family members in other rooms or see who is at the front door from the comfort of your sofa. When you're away, know what's going on at home, see who set off the alarm, keep an eye on the babysitter, know when the kids get home from school. The benefits of security cameras extend far beyond preventing intrusion.

Keep an eye on an elderly relative allowing them to remain in their own home affording you peace of mind and the ability to discreetly check their well-being.

Our alarms don't just protect you and your family from intruders, we also install Carbon Monoxide and smoke detectors linked through your alarm system.

These sensors detect this toxic gas that you cannot otherwise see, smell, or taste. If your home reaches dangerous levels of carbon monoxide, this sensor will warn you so you can get your family to safety. There's no smoke without fire, and early detection saves lives. Our monitored smoke detectors do just that, making them vital to your security.

We hope you have found this information useful. Here at Matters we have security experts who are only too happy to come and meet you or talk through over the phone the best bespoke security system for you and your needs and budget requirements. After this we will email you across a fully

Quotes: call 01494 73 80 80

transparent no obligation quotation with our security recommendations for your home. To give you an idea of pricing our security alarms start at £495 +VAT.

Help & Support

We trust you found this guide useful but there is no substitute for meeting in person for expert advice. We'd love to talk to you, demonstrate all of the options.

Call now on 01494 738080 to speak to one of our specialists or if you prefer email enquiries@mattergroup.co.uk and we can contact you.