

/ CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO SECURE YOUR HOME?

Most of us don't think about the implications of a break-in or the need for a home security system until it's too late. A burglary doesn't just cause financial loss and disruption, it can have a significant emotional impact too.

According to Directgov, the Government's digital information service, a home is five times more likely to be burgled if it has no security measures in place than if it has basic measures in place such as adequate door and window locks. Taking the extra step by having an intruder alarm or CCTV system fitted will really help protect your home and valuables.

**A HOME IS
FIVE TIMES MORE
LIKELY TO BE
BURGLED IF IT
HAS NO SECURITY
MEASURES IN PLACE**



NSI = PEACE OF MIND

Even more important is making sure your security system is professionally installed and maintained. The National Security Inspectorate (NSI) is recognised as the leading UK certification body for the security and fire protection industries. For over 40 years we have carried out regular, robust audits of electronic security installers, checking their management processes and technical expertise, so that you, the homeowner, can have faith in their capabilities and competence.

We've put together this simple guide to help you decide what security measures might be right for you, plus some tips you can use to protect your home.

TOP TIPS

“YOU CAN HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF YOUR HOME BEING TARGETED BY FOLLOWING THESE SIMPLE TOP TIPS:”



- ✓ Do not leave your keys or important documents near doors, windows or letterboxes
- ✓ **Ensure your doors and windows have good quality locks – and use them!**
- ✓ Close and lock all doors and windows even if you are only popping out for a few minutes
- ✓ **Always keep sheds, garages and outbuildings locked and secure**
- ✓ Cancel deliveries such as milk, when you are away from home for days or weeks
- ✓ **Ask a neighbour to remove post protruding from your letterbox if you are away and to keep a general eye on your property**
- ✓ Keep your valuables out of sight
- ✓ **Use timers to ensure some lights come on when it is dark before you return home**
- ✓ Mark or etch your property with your postcode, house or flat number
- ✓ **Install a visible burglar alarm**
- ✓ Do not leave ladders or garden tools accessible which could be used to gain access to the property
- ✓ **Residents of multi-occupied premises should not grant entry to people via an entry phone if they do not know who they are and be wary of ‘tailgaters’ attempting to gain access**
- ✓ Do not label your house keys in case they fall into the wrong hands
- ✓ **Be mindful of the telephone message you provide on your answer phone if you are away for any length of time – do not specify your return date**
- ✓ Check your household insurance policy to ensure it is adequate for your needs and that it will cover you in case you are away for extended periods of time
- ✓ **If you have a burglar alarm installed by an NSI approved company, check with your insurance company as you may be entitled to a discount on your policy**
- ✓ Remember to set your burglar alarm when you leave your property (this may be an insurance requirement)
- ✓ **Shred any documents that contain personal information before putting in your bin**
- ✓ Fencing and gates should be well maintained and secure. Ensure hedging and shrubs are regularly pruned so they do not obscure unwanted visitors and consider motion detectors to activate security lighting

YOUR SECURITY OPTIONS

Burglars will be deterred simply by the visible presence of the warning device fitted to the external wall of your property.

However, audible-only alarms will not give you an automatic police response. Police response will only result from a 999 call by someone who has witnessed a break-in or criminal activity.

Intruder alarm systems connected to a monitoring service are the best. Opting for a remotely monitored system where alarm signals are sent to an Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) ensures the police are contacted on your behalf in the event of a confirmed alarm. Alarm signals are filtered at the ARC to help minimise the risk of losing police response to your intruder alarm system.

There are many alarm systems on the market ranging from the relatively inexpensive 'audible-only' type systems to the more sophisticated systems offering a broader range of capabilities including remote signalling to an ARC.

You can ask the Crime Reduction Officer at your local police station for advice before you select a system. If you want your intruder alarm to be effective and meet the requirements set out by the police and your insurer, it's essential to have it installed and maintained in accordance with the required standards by a professional company such as those approved by NSI.





Security.Improved

**// PROTECT THE THINGS YOU VALUE MOST.
ENSURE THE SECURITY COMPANY YOU
CHOOSE IS NSI APPROVED.**

For over 40 years, NSI has been rigorously auditing companies within the UK security and fire sectors. Choose an NSI approved company and you know they will work to the highest industry standards.

To find an NSI approved company go to [nsi.org.uk](https://www.nsi.org.uk) or call us on **01626 637512**

National Security Inspectorate
Sentinel House, 5 Reform Road,
Maidenhead SL6 8BY UK

T +44 (0)1628 637512
F +44 (0)1628 773367
E nsi@nsi.org.uk
W [nsi.org.uk](https://www.nsi.org.uk)

