

A Beginner's Guide to Home Security Systems

An introduction to the basic concepts and arguments for owning a home security system.

By Intruder Prevention

<http://www.intruderprevention.com>

© 2007 All Rights Reserved

Legal Information:

This is a reference guide and is to be used for informational purposes only. The author of this e-book and connecting website (IntruderPrevention.com) are not responsible for any wrongdoings following any of the home security methods and procedures discussed and not discussed in this writing. There is no absolutely perfect security system. If a burglar is determined enough, he or she will find a way to break into your home or business. Please consult with a professional security expert if you're serious about purchasing or improving your security system. The information presented here is to help educate and inform you about basic security concepts and procedures in the aim of preventing an intrusion. This information is accurate to the best of my knowledge. This e-book is not affiliated with or endorsed by any distributor of security parts or home security company.

Usage Rights:

- You have the right to give away this e-book free of charge.
- This may be bundled with other products as a bonus.
- This may be used as a free gift to attract subscribers.
- You may not use this e-book in any sort of Spam.
- You may not charge for this e-book.
- You may not edit or change this e-book in any way.

If you paid for this e-book, request your money back immediately!

A Beginner's Guide to Home Security

<http://www.intruderprevention.com>

© 2007 All Rights Reserved

Table of Contents

Introduction	04
What is this e-book about?	04
Do you need a security system?	04
I already have a gun!	05
What about having a dog?	05
Types of security systems	07
Perimeter system	07
Interior system	09
Which type of security system is best?	12
Hybrids	12
Professional company versus Do-It-Yourself (DIY)	13
Local versus national security companies	14
Local company	15
National company	15
Other security accessories	17
Floodlights	17
Deadbolts	18
Cellular back-up	19
Final thoughts	21
Additional information	22

Introduction

What is this e-book about?

As the title states, this is a beginner's guide to the sometimes complicated field of home security. There aren't any tricks and this isn't one long sales pitch. This e-book was created to take an honest look at home security systems. Basic scenarios have been created to help educate the reader.

There are many different ways you can secure a home from intruders. A two thousand dollar state-of-the-art security system may protect your home just as well as a cheap \$300 do-it-yourself kit. The real answer lies with you and how comfortable you feel with your security situation and solution.

This e-book is about informing the reader of different security options.

Do you need a security system?

To answer this question thoughtfully, you need to take a look at yourself and your living situation. To do that, I would ask these questions:

- Do you have a family living with you?
- Do you have any small children living with you?
- Do you have any pets?
- Do you have any valuable belongings?
- Most importantly, do you feel safe at night lying in bed?

Except for the last one, answering "yes" to any of those questions means you'll most likely want to investigate owning some type of a security system.

I already have a gun!

Having a firearm is an excellent idea, but it doesn't mean that you don't need a security system.

Remember that the gun only works if somebody is able to point it at the intruder *and* possibly pull the trigger. It doesn't work if you're asleep in bed or away from your home.

Using a gun against an intruder also means a great deal of stress and responsibility. Could you handle holding somebody at gunpoint until the police arrive? Are you ready to do the final act of shooting and possibly killing a person should they become violent and threaten you or your family?

What about having a dog?

It's still argued today that if you have a dog, then for the most part you shouldn't need a security system. After all, most dogs bark at intruders and can successfully scare them away. Having a growling German shepherd on the other side of the door is an excellent type of criminal deterrence. What kind of person would want to challenge a dog like that?

Some large, well trained dogs make excellent companions and security guards. Their faithful allegiance is told time and time again. It's common to find news articles about dogs going against all odds to save the life of a family member, even if it means their own death. That kind of heroism and determination is simply amazing.

The problem is that there will always be ways to get around a guard dog. Here are a few reasons:

- Dogs can be bribed to stay quiet. A dog treat, chewing gum or even a little peanut butter can go a long way. You may even make a friend out of the guard dog.
- Dogs can be put down with a gunshot or severe beating with a stick or crowbar.
- Dogs are not always on guard 24x7x365. A dog cannot guard your home when it's out on a walk or visiting the veterinarian.
- Dogs may spend the night in a cage or isolated room. Intruders aren't as fearful of trapped dogs.

Dogs are great for barking at intruders and showing force. The barking is loud, fearsome and should easily alert everybody in the house. But despite all of that, can you still count on a dog protecting your home at all hours every day?

Types of security systems

When considering a security system, there's an important question you need to consider before proceeding. Do you want the intruder to be detected inside or outside your home? If you want the intruder detected while still outside your home, then you need to consider a perimeter security system. If you'd rather catch the burglar inside, then you'll want to stick with an interior system.

That seems like a no-brainer question, but there's logic and reasoning between both choices.

Perimeter system

As noted above, this is a system that is alarmed before the intruder enters your home. This type of system relies heavily on the usage of door contacts, window contacts and glass break detectors. The moment somebody opens a door or window, or breaks glass, then the alarm is activated.

Example:

Now put yourself in the intruder's shoes. You managed to sneak up to a home and quietly defeated a deadbolt lock. Just as you're slowly swinging open the door the alarm starts blaring. You haven't even made it a step into the home and you've already been detected. The police are probably being dispatched right now. Is it time to continue into the house and grab some stuff, or should you just get out of there as fast as possible without getting caught?

As you can probably guess, most burglars would rather stay on the run and live to burglarize another day (or night). The odds of that burglar returning again are between slim and none.

There are two main problems with using just a perimeter system: the cost and the size of the system.

1) Cost. The cost is a big factor with this system. Each door and window contact costs money. Each glass break detector also costs money. Start counting all of the outside windows and doors (second floor windows too!), and multiply that by about \$25. That'll give you a good ballpark to start thinking about a perimeter system. A good security company will have a package deal and include a number of contacts for free, but that depends on where you live and the local companies near you.

2) Size. The size of the system is another factor. This will depend on your security system's main control box, the control panel and your personal preference. If you want to know where the intruder is breaking into your home (either by the room or the actual doors/windows), then each set of windows needs to be in its own zone.

Zone 1 may be for the front door, Zone 2 for the living room windows, Zone 3 for the garage door, etc. A general rule of thumb is that most systems can handle between eight and ten zones. Otherwise, it's going to need a zone expander or two to handle the size of your system. The system's control panel needs to be advanced enough to be able to know about the zones and let you know exactly where the trouble is being reported. Again, not every system has to be this way. This is your own preference.

The good thing is that if need be all of the windows and doors can be combined into the same zone. When the alarm goes off the system won't tell you exactly where in the house it is, but it'll still work. If your home is monitored it will still report the alarm to the monitoring agency. The only difference is that you have to guess which entry point the burglar used.

Interior system

This type of security system is designed to “trap” intruders on the inside of your home. As opposed to the perimeter system with all of its door and window contacts, the interior system mainly relies on the use of motion detectors. As the name implies, the intruder needs to be inside the building before any alarms are sounded.

Believe it or not, but there are two main reasons on why it’s an advantage using an interior security system: simplicity and cost.

1) Simplicity. A security system based on using motion detectors is usually fairly basic and simple to install. Using the detector’s wide field of view and ability to use line-of-sight, you can create “secure zones” such as hallways, garages and stairwells. The far range and wide field of view gives a large square footage area of protection.

2) Cost. Generally, a security system mainly composed of motion detectors is substantially cheaper than using contacts in every door and window. Most security companies charge between \$50 and \$100 for additional motion detectors. A home that would need 15-20 contacts may only need two or three motion detectors to provide protection.

Example:

Again, let’s put ourselves in a burglar’s shoes and do another example. You managed to sneak up to the dark side of a home and found a window in the shadows. The window is easily forced open and you’re standing in the dining room. Seeing nothing of value you creep into the hallway and make your way to the family / entertainment room. After taking a step or two, all of a sudden the

alarm sounds. Somebody turns on an upstairs light and you hear footsteps. Are you going to stay around for a while and do some looting, or is it time to get out before anybody can recognize you?

It's important to note that there are three main disadvantages to using an interior system: inside only, modes of operations and pets.

1) Inside only. The first problem was noted in the previous example. The intruder has to be inside the house before the alarm is sounded. Many people consider that idea revolting. They want that extra feeling of security by not allowing the intruder inside without being detected. This is especially true for families with small children or expensive possessions.

2) Modes of operation. The next problem is that the motion detectors are not to be used when you're home and moving around the rooms. The best times to use the detectors are when you're away or asleep. This may not be adequate protection if you're living in a high crime area.

3) Pets. This is the main reason that animal owners stay away from using motion detectors. Different companies handle dogs with one of two different ways. First, they may use a special pet motion detector. These detectors need the animal to weigh at least 80 pounds before they're detected. This allows most of the larger breeds of dogs to safely move around the home without setting off the alarms. The other method companies may use is to turn a regular motion detector upside down. This creates a small corridor near the floor so the pets can pass without detection. What if an intruder were to also stay low to the floor?

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

