

What Makes Up A Security System ?

Control Panels

The control panel is the "brain" of your security system. All detectors and devices communicate with the control panel. Based on how your security company has programmed your control panel (which is essentially a computer), it will react in specific ways to the communication it receives from the various detectors. For example, you may have a detector such as a smoke detector on '24 hours'. This means that regardless of whether or not you've armed (turned on) the system, it will report a smoke alarm to Central Station. Other detectors, like a door contact, will only report an alarm if you've armed (turned on) your system. Your control panel will also communicate trouble reports to the The Central Station (such as a backup battery being low) who in turn will convey this information to you. The control panel also activates the sirens.

Door/Window Contacts

When your system is armed, and a door or window (that has been contacted) is opened, the contacts send an alarm signal to the control panel, that then sends a signal to The Central Station in addition to sounding the siren.

Motion Detectors

The most commonly used motion detector is called a PIR (for Passive Infrared) and detects the body heat of an intruder. When your system is armed and an intruder moves within the detector's range, it will send the signal to the control panel, which in turns activates the sirens and communicates with The Central Station Motion Detectors can be used in narrow or large rooms.

Glass break Detectors

Glass break detectors 'listen' for the sound frequency of shattering glass. They provide coverage for windows (or any glass) within 15 to 20 feet of the sensor.

Smoke Detectors –

Photoelectric smoke detectors inform the control panel that an unacceptable level of smoke is in the room being monitored. Most state and local fire codes require the use of one smoke detector on each level of your home, and one smoke detector in or near each bedroom. This would be the minimum basis level.

Panic Buttons

When a panic button is pressed, it activates an instant alarm signal to the control panel. The control panel instantly notifies The Central Station. Panic buttons may be designated for police response only. A panic button may be hardwired directly to the control panel. It may also be remote and battery operated (may be worn on a pendant, clipped to a belt, clipped on a keychain, strapped to a wrist)

Sirens

In a residential application, inside sirens are always recommended. They will alert you and your family of an emergency. Many people also opt for an outside siren with a strobe light, which will alert the neighbourhood to an alarm situation.

Vibration Sensor (Viper)

A Viper is a selective vibration sensor detector using a proven custom chip that enables the unit to be adjusted individually for sensitivity over a wide range, but is immune to low frequency vibrations. The viper is a device using sophisticated electronics with a special piezo electric sensor.

This device can be used on windows, and doors.

Shatter Point Glass Sensor

The Shatter Point processes both acoustic and vibration to identify breaking glass. The inbuilt reed switch provides protection against forced opening of windows or doors as well as breaking glass.

Satellite Siren

A Satellite Siren is a high security-warning device used in high-risk areas, to better protect your premises. The unit also has its own battery backup, which will keep the unit activated should an intruder attempt to dismantle it, cut its cabling, or tamper with it in any way. It will even remain active should the intruder render the rest of the system useless. This as apposed to the standard external siren and blue light, which is fully dependent on the rest of the system being operational, hence the satellite siren a far better way of securing your premises.

Monitoring

Monitoring of the security system by Combined Monitoring Centre ensures an effective response to an attempted break-in or a personal duress. It also includes testing of the systems communication line at a regular interval and checks various other functions ie low battery and mails fail.

There are three levels of security monitoring :-

Standard Digital Monitoring
GSM Monitoring / Digital
Securitel Monitoring

Depends on the integrity of the Phone being operational.
Combines the Digital Monitoring with the backup of mobile GSM.
High Security Data line which interrogates the state of the phone line.