ALARM INSTALLERS — GUIDE

DIY vs professional alarm monitoring

Separate who installs the system from who receives its signals.

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Decide who will install the system and who will monitor it as separate choices. Alarm Grid's monitoring page offers self-monitoring and central station plans. SimpliSafe's monitoring page describes professional monitoring for its systems. Neither page is a promise that every panel can use every plan.

Self-monitoring

Ask what messages reach your phone and what you must do after an alert. Test the notification route with the provider's procedure. Consider what happens when you cannot answer, travel or lose access to the account. Ask another authorised user to demonstrate that they can receive and interpret an alert.

Professional monitoring

Ask who receives signals, how contacts are reached and what verification precedes a dispatch request. Request a written response plan for burglary, fire and panic events if those services are included. Ask how faults and missed test signals are handled.

Installation still matters

For a self-installed system, ask how support confirms device placement and communication. For a contractor-installed system, request a survey, labelled device list and handover training. Check local licensing and permit requirements with the relevant authority rather than assuming that the purchase route resolves them.

Compare like services

Alarm Grid's fetched page separates a USD $10 per month self-monitoring entry from central station plans starting at USD $15 per month. That distinction matters more than the smallest advertised number. Confirm current prices, taxes, supported equipment and communication charges before purchase.

Test the people as well as the equipment

Ask each user to explain the entry procedure, cancellation route and contact update process. Agree who maintains the account after a move, staff change or lost phone. Keep the monitoring provider's support details somewhere accessible without the app.

Choose the arrangement whose responsibilities you can explain. If you cannot tell who acts on a signal, ask for a clearer scope before activation.

Sources

- Alarm Grid, Alarm Monitoring. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://www.alarmgrid.com/monitoring.
- SimpliSafe, Professional Monitoring. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://simplisafe.com/features-alarm-monitoring.
- UL Solutions, Central Station Service Certification. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://www.ul.com/services/central-station-service-certification.

Frequently asked questions

Can I use this guide instead of a site assessment?

No. Ask an alarm company for a written assessment. Confirm local requirements with the authority that applies to the property.