ALARM INSTALLERS — GUIDE

Wired vs wireless alarm systems

Compare installation routes, maintenance and communication paths without assuming one system fits every building.

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Choose the design after a survey of the building. Ask the installer to compare a wired option, a wireless option and reuse of existing equipment. The useful comparison is a written scope with clear exclusions.

Separate sensor links from monitoring links

Ask how each sensor communicates with the panel. Then ask how the panel communicates with the monitoring station. These are separate questions. Alarm Grid's published plans distinguish internet and cellular monitoring. A claim about a wireless sensor does not tell you which route carries an alarm off site.

Survey the route

For a wired proposal, ask where cables will run, what surfaces need access and who repairs decoration. For a wireless proposal, ask how the installer checks signal coverage and what maintenance each device needs. Ask for a device list with model names and manufacturer instructions. Avoid a quote that promises coverage without a site check.

Compare maintenance

Request a maintenance schedule for the proposed equipment. Ask which batteries, power supplies and communication modules need attention. Ask how the system reports a fault and who receives the report. Do not assume that an app alert means the installer will visit.

Existing equipment

Give bidders the panel model, sensor list and any service documents. Ask which devices can be reused and which need replacement. Ask whether another provider can maintain the system later. Keep ownership, installer access and account transfer terms in the contract.

Handover

Request a labelled device list and a demonstration of the agreed test procedure. Ask the installer to demonstrate a communication fault in a controlled test. Record unresolved coverage issues. Keep passwords and disarm codes out of a public directory or comparison sheet.

The published monitoring plans cited below show service options. They do not prove that a particular sensor, panel or radio route will work at your property. Require the installer to confirm compatibility in writing.

Sources

- Alarm Grid, Alarm Monitoring. Public page fetched 2026-11-10: https://www.alarmgrid.com/monitoring.

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.