

SPONSORED

## HOME SECURITY

# What you need to know about home security

As an increase in burglaries is typically expected throughout the winter months, what do you need to know to protect your home?

An Garda Síochána recently started their winter phase of 'Operation Thor', which will run until the end of March 2021. An Garda Síochána anticipate an increase in the number of burglaries and associated criminal activity, as these usually occur in the winter months. The operation is designed to tackle this, by undertaking targeted enforcement and preventative activities.

These types of activities are one of the biggest trends in home security. The number of residential burglaries has dropped to an average of 6,980 from 2015 to the current year, a decrease of 39.8pc. This is due to preventative measures such as Operation Thor and increased home security. Getting ahead of the criminals is the best step in ensuring burglars are unsuccessful.

October 21st also saw the EU Focus Day on the prevention of domestic burglary. This involved the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN) and 26 European countries coordinating an EU-wide burglary prevention initiative.

Speaking following the launch of the EU Wide Focus Day on Burglary, Crime Prevention Officer Sergeant Graham Kavanagh, said, "An Garda Síochána is committed in the fight against domestic burglaries and recently launched the annual Winter Phase of Operation Thor on 1st October, to tackle burglaries and associated criminal activity in the winter months. The rise in winter burglaries is a curve we can flatten by carrying out simple steps to protect our homes; i.e. Lock Up Light Up."

Use timer switches to

turn on lights, lock all doors and windows, store keys away from windows and letterboxes, and use your alarm.

Find out more about these campaigns and preventative measures on [eucpn.org/focus-day](http://eucpn.org/focus-day) and [garda.ie](http://garda.ie)

## CERTIFIED ALARM INSTALLERS

In order to protect your home, there are plenty of home security products on the market. But how do you know which to choose?

Sean Leavy, President of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA), which has been representing the needs of the private security industry for over 40 years, says, "If you're getting a new alarm system for the first time, there's a number of items that need to be considered prior to purchasing your alarm system."

"Firstly, you can only utilise the services of a Private Security Authority (PSA) certified alarm installer, to install and monitor your system. Your chosen installer will carry out a site survey and risk assessment based on your property. This will enable your installer to recommend the type of security system and design and installation to suit your security requirements."

There are three main types of security systems:

**Unmonitored audible alarm system** - this is a standard alarm system where the alarm will ring locally. You will need one of your neighbours, or someone in the house itself,

to respond to the alarm activation.

**Self-notification alarm system** - this is where the alarm will send a text message to your phone and alert you that your alarm is activated.

**Monitored alarm system** - a monitored alarm system will transmit a signal to a licensed PSA-certified alarm receiving centre, where trained operators will respond to the alarm activation, and contact

your key holders and relevant authorities in the event of the verified activation.



Sean Leavy

## SUSTAINABLE SECURITY

One of the biggest trends in home security is sustainability. Gone are the days when if something broke, you would simply throw it away.

There is plastic in almost everything, including alarm panels and CCTV cameras. But don't automatically think that just because the alarm system is broken, it is beyond repair.

Brian Smith, Owner of ESP Security which specialises in electronic security, alarm systems, and CCTV systems, along with residential and domestic alarm systems and alarm repairs for the home, says, "It is almost a crime just to throw away a perfectly good alarm system because it has a faulty sensor, something the size of a box of matches. Not only is it very bad for the environment, but it is also bad for your pocket!"

Even the best home security system can have issues. Celebrating 25 years in the alarm repair industry this year, ESP Security is



one of the biggest providers of alarm repairs in Dublin, Wicklow, Kildare, and Meath. They carry out burglar alarm maintenance and regular maintenance visits.

Brian says, "In some cases, the fault may simply be a faulty sensor that needs to be replaced. We have a rapid alarm repair service available with excellent customer service, technical support and after-sales service."

The main alarm panels

they repair include HKC, Aritech, Scopetronic and Astec. "We repair all alarms and carry batteries for all alarms too."

So next time you have an alarm activation - get an engineer from ESP Security

Ltd to check and repair your burglar alarm system for you.

"Since the early 90s, we have grown to become a leading specialist in security, so we definitely know what we are doing!"

Visit [espsecurity.ie](http://espsecurity.ie)

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