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House alarm: questions for the installer

An alarm backs up good locks; it does not replace them. Get at least three quotes, ask each installer every question, and compare the answers overleaf.

Before they call

- **Do the free things first.** Lock up, light up, and keep keys away from windows and letterboxes. An alarm backs up good locks; it does not replace them.
- **Get free advice.** Ask your local Garda Crime Prevention Officer, and ask your insurer what it needs.
- **Find three licensed installers**, and get each quote in writing.

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Ask each installer

	Answered?	A	B	C
1	What is your PSA licence number? Check it yourself on the PSA register: the name, the intruder alarm category and the expiry date.	☐	☐	☐
2	Can I have your quote in writing? Get at least three, so you can compare like with like.	☐	☐	☐
3	Does the system meet EN 50131, and which grade is it? Ask why that grade suits this house. EN 50131 is the standard the Gardaí recommend, and one of their conditions for responding.	☐	☐	☐
4	Wired or wireless, and why for this house? The Gardaí say the choice can depend on cost, the design of your home, where it is, and whether it is already wired.	☐	☐	☐
5	Will it be monitored? By which company, and what will monitoring cost each year? Check the monitoring company on the PSA register too, and get the yearly cost in writing.	☐	☐	☐

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Ask each installer (continued)

		Answered?	A	B	C
6	Will this system qualify for a Garda URN? Only a URN guarantees a Garda response. It needs an approved standard, installer and monitoring company.		☐	☐	☐
7	Does it use dual verification? The Gardaí say every alarm system should have it.		☐	☐	☐
8	When it goes off, who is told, and how? Agree your keyholders. An auto-dialler must not be set to call the Gardaí.		☐	☐	☐
9	Will you show everyone in the house how to use it? The Gardaí say to insist on a training session.		☐	☐	☐
10	What servicing does it need, how often, and at what cost?		☐	☐	☐
11	What does my insurer need? Ask your insurer before you sign, and give the installer the answer.		☐	☐	☐

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Compare the answers

	Installer A	Installer B	Installer C
Company name and phone			
PSA licence number			
Checked on the PSA register	☐	☐	☐
Quote in writing	☐	☐	☐
EN 50131 grade			
Wired or wireless			
Monitored by company			
Monitoring cost each year			
Can get a Garda URN	☐	☐	☐
Dual verification	☐	☐	☐
Training for everyone	☐	☐	☐
Servicing how often, cost			
Price quoted in total			

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Never write your alarm code on this sheet, on the manual, or anywhere near the keypad.

One thing to do first

Look up every installer on the PSA register before they quote: psa-gov.ie, “PSA Registered Contractors”. Check the name, the intruder alarm category and the expiry date.

- **Free advice:** ask your local Garda Crime Prevention Officer, and ask your insurer what it needs.

Notes

This sheet: safeandsecure.ie/resources/printables/house-alarm-installer-questions

Last checked 7 October 2026 **Free to print and share. Not for sale.**

Sources: An Garda Síochána, leaflet HS4 Intruder Alarms (August 2020) and Securing your home (garda.ie); Private Security Authority (psa-gov.ie); CCPC (ccpc.ie)