


How difficult could it be to install my own alarm system?

Our Mini House Alarm is probably the easiest wired system available to install and get working. It requires only the sensors and power to be connected—and it's ready to go.

 **Important Notice on Alarm System Compliance** If your home insurance covers break-ins, be sure to review the fine print in your policy. Some insurers require that any burglar alarm system be installed by a **SAIDSA-certified** technician and a certificate of compliance be issued. Failure to comply with this requirement could result in your claim being rejected in the event of a burglary.

Planning is paramount. Do not rush the installation. Draw a picture of the area being protected to help decide on sensor placement. Plan wiring routes carefully; shorter isn't always better. Look for the easiest path. Identify the most probable entry points for intruders and prioritise those areas. Also consider the time needed to disarm the alarm upon entry.

Wiring should be placed at least 2 metres above floor level. The siren and strobe should be mounted even higher. The alarm box should be installed near the entrance and close to a power outlet.

Passive Infrared Detector (PIR)

This is the most common type of intruder sensor. It is an electronic device that measures infrared (IR) light radiating from objects in its field of view. Apparent motion is detected when an IR source with one temperature—such as a human—passes in front of another IR source with a different temperature, such as a wall.

All objects emit what is known as black body radiation. This is typically infrared radiation, which is invisible to the human eye but can be detected by electronic devices. The term *passive* means that the PIR device does not emit an infrared beam; it simply measures incoming IR radiation.

Care must be taken during installation to prevent false alarms caused by temperature changes from fans, heaters, air conditioners, or nearby windows.



Good Placement Options

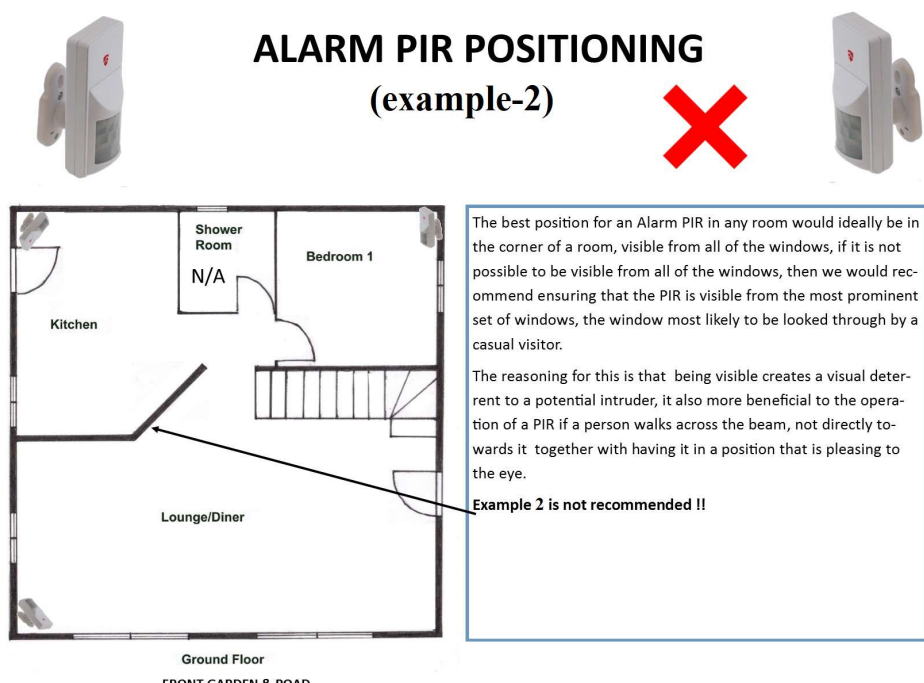
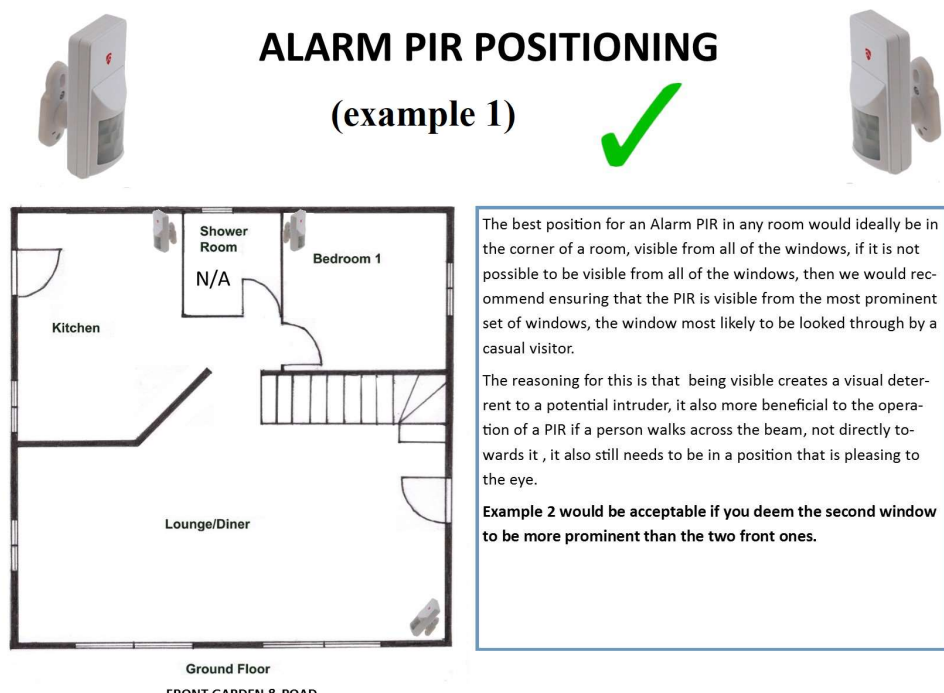
- **Corners:** Ideal spots for sensor installation. The best height is approximately 2.5 metres. If the location is near a ceiling or floor fan, heater, or air conditioner, you may need to switch these off when the alarm is armed. Keep in mind that a PIR is most sensitive when a person walks *across* its beams rather than *towards* them. You can test a potential location by temporarily mounting the sensor and monitoring the status LED with fans and other appliances running.

Poor Placement Locations

- **Close to large furniture:** This can create blind spots for the sensor.

- **Directly facing a window:** Sudden changes in sunlight—such as clouds passing—can cause temperature shifts and trigger the alarm.
- **Pets:** If you use pet-resistant PIRs, remember they are rated for specific pet weights. Multiple pets moving together may exceed the weight limit and trigger the sensor.

Placement Examples



Magnetic Door Contact

The reed switch is a mechanical switch operated by a magnetic field.

An example of a reed switch application is to detect the opening of a door or window.

These can easily be connected in series with a PIR circuit to extend the covered area. A good option is to include one in the timed PIR circuit.



Panic buttons: general overview

What is a panic button?

A panic button is a device designed to signal an emergency. It will trigger the alarm instantly and run the siren for longer than an intruder alarm.

Types of panic buttons

Portable panic buttons

The alarm is compatible with many types of portable panic buttons. The pocket-sized wireless type makes portable panic buttons a perfect security solution for individuals who are constantly on the move. They also have the advantage of functioning outside the property. They can be more expensive to install than fixed panic buttons.



Fixed panic buttons

Fixed panic buttons are stationary devices that are installed in a single location and cannot be carried around. If you are trapped in a part of the building away from a panic switch, it could be difficult to call for assistance. Typically, a wired panic button system is cheaper to install than a wireless system. This is dependant on the number of switches and their location.

