

Alarm System Buyer's Checklist for Gauteng Homes & Businesses

A practical guide for first-time alarm buyers and property owners

Make the right security decision for your home, business, or estate with this guided checklist. Designed specifically for Gauteng-based property owners, this resource helps you choose between alarm types, assess your property's needs, and prepare for installation with clarity and confidence.

Step 1: Know Your Property's Security Risk Level

Before choosing a system, assess where and how you're most vulnerable.

- ☐ Is your property in a high-crime area or close to a main road?
- ☐ Are there multiple entry points (windows, back doors, garages)?
- ☐ Have there been recent break-ins in your neighbourhood?
- ☐ Do you need indoor, outdoor, or both types of protection?

Step 2: Decide Between Wired, Wireless, or Hybrid System

Your choice depends on the type of property, budget, and lifestyle.

Wired System

- ☐ Do you own the property and plan to stay long-term?
- ☐ Is your home under construction or recently built (easier for cabling)?
- ☐ Do you prefer a system with less maintenance (no battery changes)?
- ☐ Can you accommodate some drilling and neat wiring?

Wireless System

- ☐ Is your property already fully built with no easy way to run cables?
- ☐ Do you rent or plan to move in the near future?
- ☐ Do you want easier DIY add-ons and portable sensors?
- ☐ Are you okay with changing batteries every 12–24 months?

Hybrid System

- ☐ Do you want the reliability of wired zones + flexibility of wireless zones?
- ☐ Do you want to expand your system over time?
- ☐ Are you looking for a premium option suited for growing security needs?

Step 3: Must-Have Features Based on Your Lifestyle

Don't skip these, they make all the difference.

- ☐ Battery Backup (essential during Gauteng's loadshedding)
- ☐ Mobile App Access & Instant Alerts (check system from anywhere)
- ☐ Pet-Friendly Sensors (no false alarms from dogs/cats)
- ☐ Panic Buttons (portable or fixed)
- ☐ Integration with CCTV / Intercom / Smart Devices
- ☐ Multiple User Access (for family/staff)

Step 4: Clarify What Needs Protection

Alarm systems work best when you know exactly what you're protecting. Walk through your space and consider the following zones:

Entry Points (Your First Line of Defence)

- ☐ **Front Door:** Most common break-in spot; should always have a sensor.
- ☐ **Back Door or Kitchen Door:** Often targeted because they're hidden from street view.
- ☐ **Garage Doors (Manual or Motorised):** Especially if they connect directly to your house.
- ☐ **Sliding or Patio Doors:** Easy to force open and often overlooked.

Vulnerable Windows

- ☐ **Ground Floor Windows:** These should always be covered with sensors or beams.
- ☐ **Bathroom or Small Windows:** Even if small, burglars often use them to gain access.
- ☐ **Street-facing or Isolated Windows:** They're exposed and often forgotten.

Interior Movement Zones

- ☐ **Passageways & Common Areas:** These link rooms and are ideal for motion detection.
- ☐ **Living Rooms or Lounges:** Especially if they contain valuables like TVs, gaming systems, or laptops.
- ☐ **Home Offices:** If you work from home or store sensitive equipment or data.

Storage Areas & Hidden Zones

- ☐ **Garages / Storerooms:** Often used to store tools, bicycles, and backup supplies.
- ☐ **Outbuildings / Cottages / Staff Quarters:** These are separate and need their own sensors.
- ☐ **Basements / Attics / Cellars:** Rare but may be vulnerable, especially in older properties.

Outdoor & Perimeter Protection

- ☐ **Driveways & Garden Paths:** Use outdoor beams to detect motion early.
- ☐ **Electric Fences & Gates:** Should be integrated into your alarm for layered protection.
- ☐ **Boundary Walls or Fencing:** Secure the perimeter before they even reach the house.

Panic Zones (Emergency Access)

- ☐ **Bedrooms:** Panic buttons near the bed offer safety during late-night break-ins.
- ☐ **Main Living Areas:** Easy access panic remotes or wall buttons for emergencies.
- ☐ **Entrance Hall / Exit Routes:** Make sure you can trigger a panic alert as you flee or enter.

Integration Zones

- ☐ Do you have **CCTV** already? Add sensors that work alongside it.
- ☐ Do you use **Smart Home Devices**? Confirm your alarm can connect with them.
- ☐ Are there **existing sensors**? Decide whether to reuse or replace them.

Step 5: Set Your Budget

Know what you can spend upfront and monthly.

- ☐ R3,000 – R5,500 = Entry-level (basic wired/wireless)
- ☐ R6,000 – R8,000 = Mid-range hybrid (small-to-medium homes)
- ☐ R8,000 – R15,000 = Premium systems with multiple zones and smart features
- ☐ R400 – R1,000/month = Armed response and app-based monitoring

Step 6: Choose a Credible Installer

Don't cut corners, your security depends on this.

- ☐ Are they certified and experienced?
- ☐ Do they provide written quotes (with no hidden charges)?
- ☐ Is their installation neat and clean?
- ☐ Do they offer after-installation support (minimum 3-month warranty)?
- ☐ Do they understand Gauteng-specific crime and power challenges?

Final Steps

- ☐ Book a free consultation with [Lavisa Technologies](#)
- ☐ Walk through your checklist with a technician
- ☐ Compare quotes and ask about upgrade paths
- ☐ Compare quotes for armed response monitoring options