

5 Questions to Ask Before Buying a Business Security System

If you're like most business owners, choosing the right security system to protect your company assets can be a little stressful. The information below may make choosing the right security system for your business easier.

Due to the high rate of false alarms caused by conventional alarms (98% false in some areas), more and more cities and counties across the country are requiring some sort of [alarm verification](#) before a police response is warranted. Depending on the area, this could mean an eye witness, audio verification, video verification or a combination of audio/video verification. Before you sign on with an alarm company, it is imperative you check the "False Alarm Ordinance" for your jurisdiction—after all, you don't want to end up paying for an alarm that police will ignore.

Once you've checked the False Alarm Ordinance, you should go ahead and schedule a meeting with the security company you're interested in. If your community has a verification ordinance, you'll want to meet exclusively with providers of verified security. Even if there is no verification requirement for your local police department, verified alarms still receive the highest dispatch priority for all police departments—again, you don't want pay for something that might not get a [police response for 45 minutes](#).



During your first meeting with a representative from an alarm company, be sure you ask the following questions:

- 1. Does the company have its own alarm installers, technicians and monitors, or are they subcontracted from other companies?**
- 2. How many accounts is each monitoring operator responsible for?**
- 3. In the event of a break-in, what is the exact course of events that you should expect?**
- 4. How many criminal apprehensions has the company's own monitoring center assisted law enforcement with?**
- 5. What types of warranties and guarantees does the company provide?**

There are probably additional questions that you'll want to ask about your specific facility, but if the representative cannot answer all of the above questions honestly and to your satisfaction, it's time to find another company.