A **security alarm**[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_alarm#cite_note-1) is a system designed to detect intrusion – unauthorized entry – into a building or area. Security alarms are used in residential, commercial, industrial, and military properties for protection against [burglary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burglary) ([theft](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theft)) or [property damage](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Property_damage), as well as personal protection against intruders. [Car alarms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Car_alarm) likewise protect vehicles and their contents. [Prisons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prison) also use security systems for control of [inmates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inmate).

Some alarm systems serve a single purpose of burglary protection; combination systems provide both [fire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fire_alarm_systems) and intrusion protection. Intrusion alarm systems may also be combined with [closed- circuit television](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Closed-circuit_television) [surveillance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surveillance) systems to automatically record the activities of intruders, and may interface to [access control systems](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Access_control_system) for electrically locked doors. Systems range from small, self- contained noisemakers, to complicated, multi-area systems with computer monitoring and