

How to Save Money by Adding a Dialer to a Door or Window Sensor Security System

Introduction

A security dialer can notify you directly when a door or window sensor is triggered, helping you avoid or reduce monthly monitoring fees. Instead of paying a monitoring company, the system can call, text, or send alerts to your phone.

Components of a Typical Self-Monitored Security System









The basic components include:

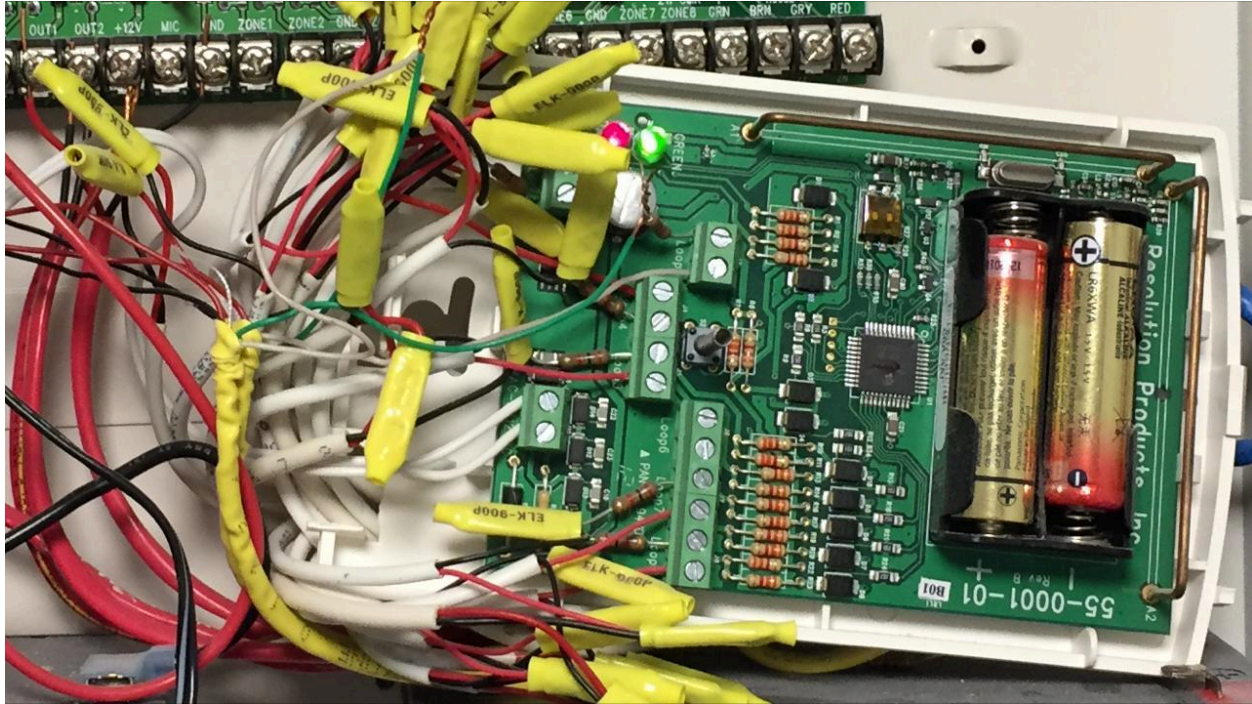
- Security control panel
- Door sensors
- Window sensors
- Security dialer or cellular communicator
- Power supply and backup battery

Step 1: Check Your Existing Security System

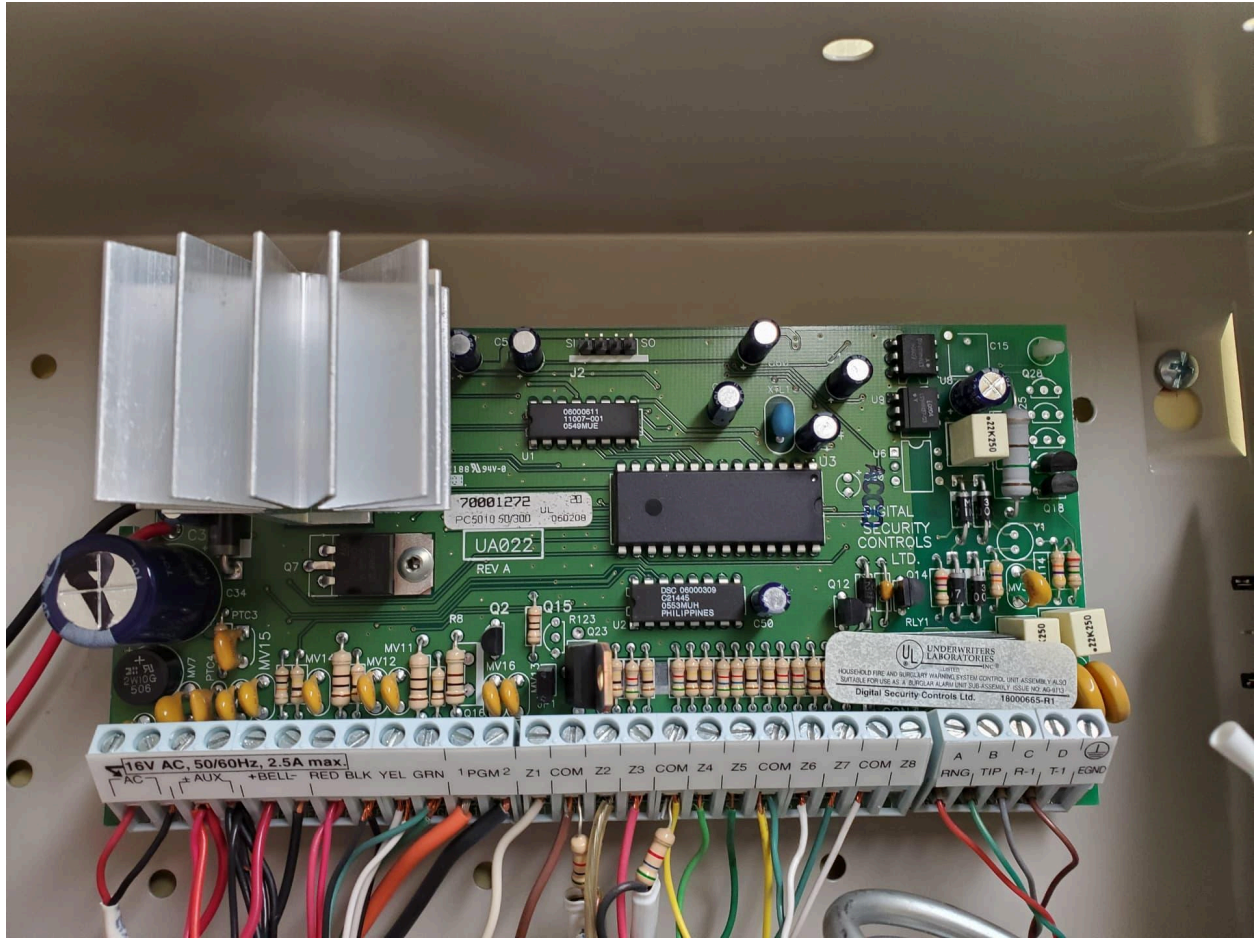
Before purchasing a dialer, determine whether your alarm panel provides an alarm output or supports an external communicator.

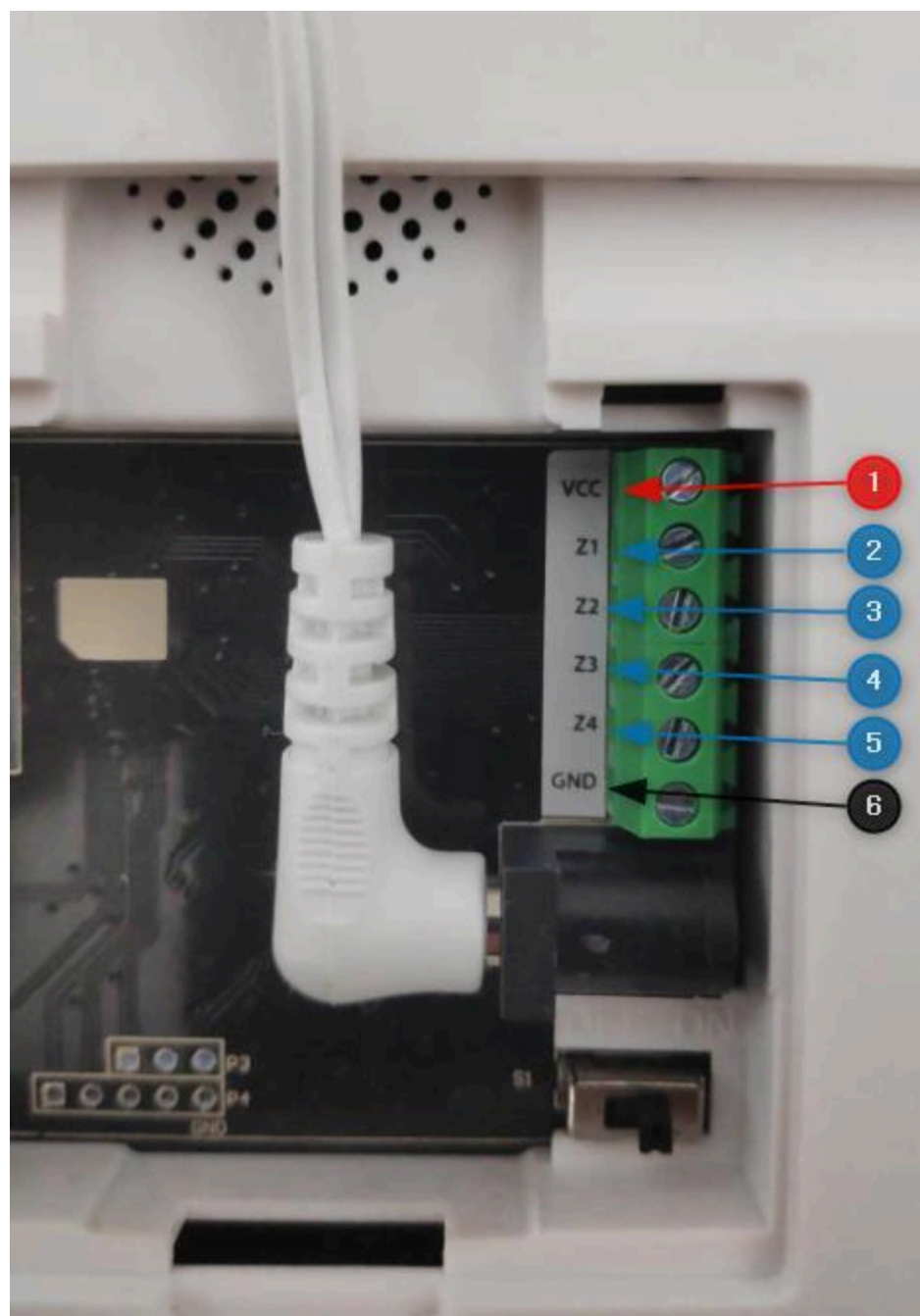
Look for:

- Alarm output terminals
- Auxiliary outputs
- Cellular communicator compatibility
- User manual specifications











Tip

Many older alarm systems can be upgraded with a dialer without replacing door and window sensors.

Step 2: Choose a Dialer

Landline Dialers

- Usually inexpensive
- Require a traditional phone line

Cellular Dialers

- Operate through a cellular network
- Can send calls and text alerts
- Work even if internet service fails

Internet-Based Communicators

- Connect through broadband internet
- Often provide smartphone app notifications







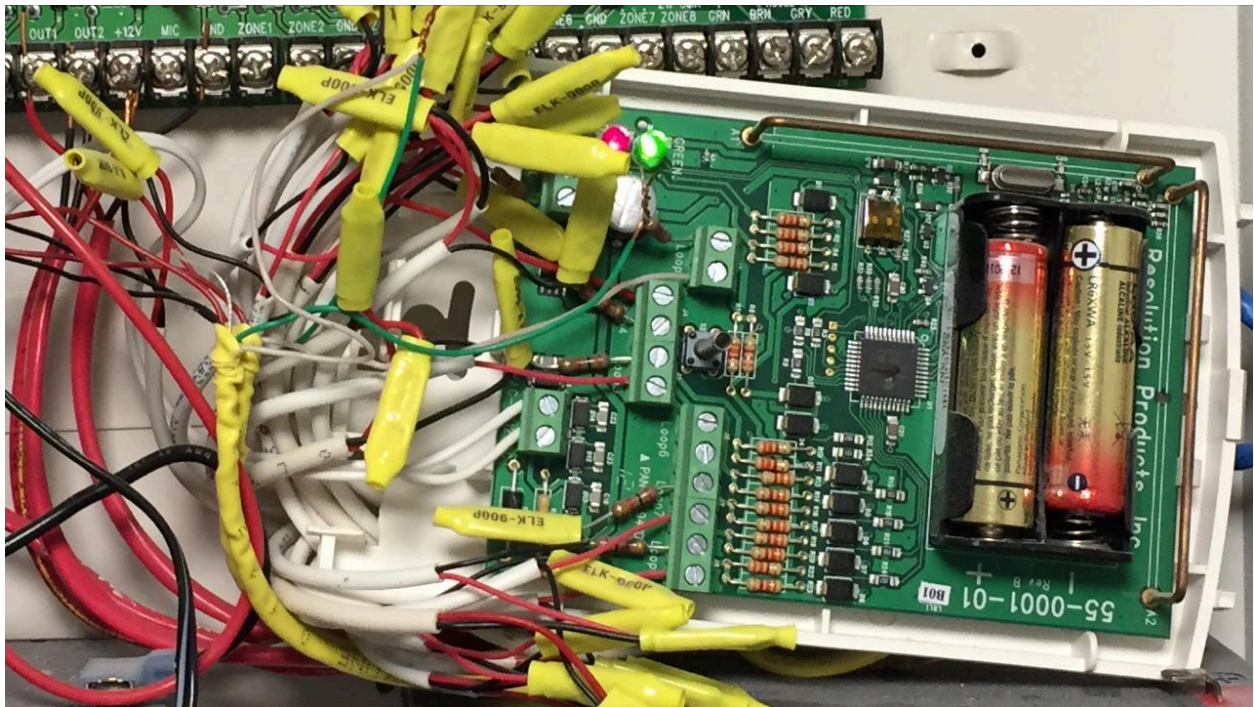


5. Program notification settings.

Important: Installation procedures vary by manufacturer. Always follow the documentation for your specific equipment.







Step 4: Program Alert Contacts

Enter:

- Your primary phone number
- A backup contact number
- Optional family member contacts
- Alert message settings

Many modern systems can notify several people simultaneously.

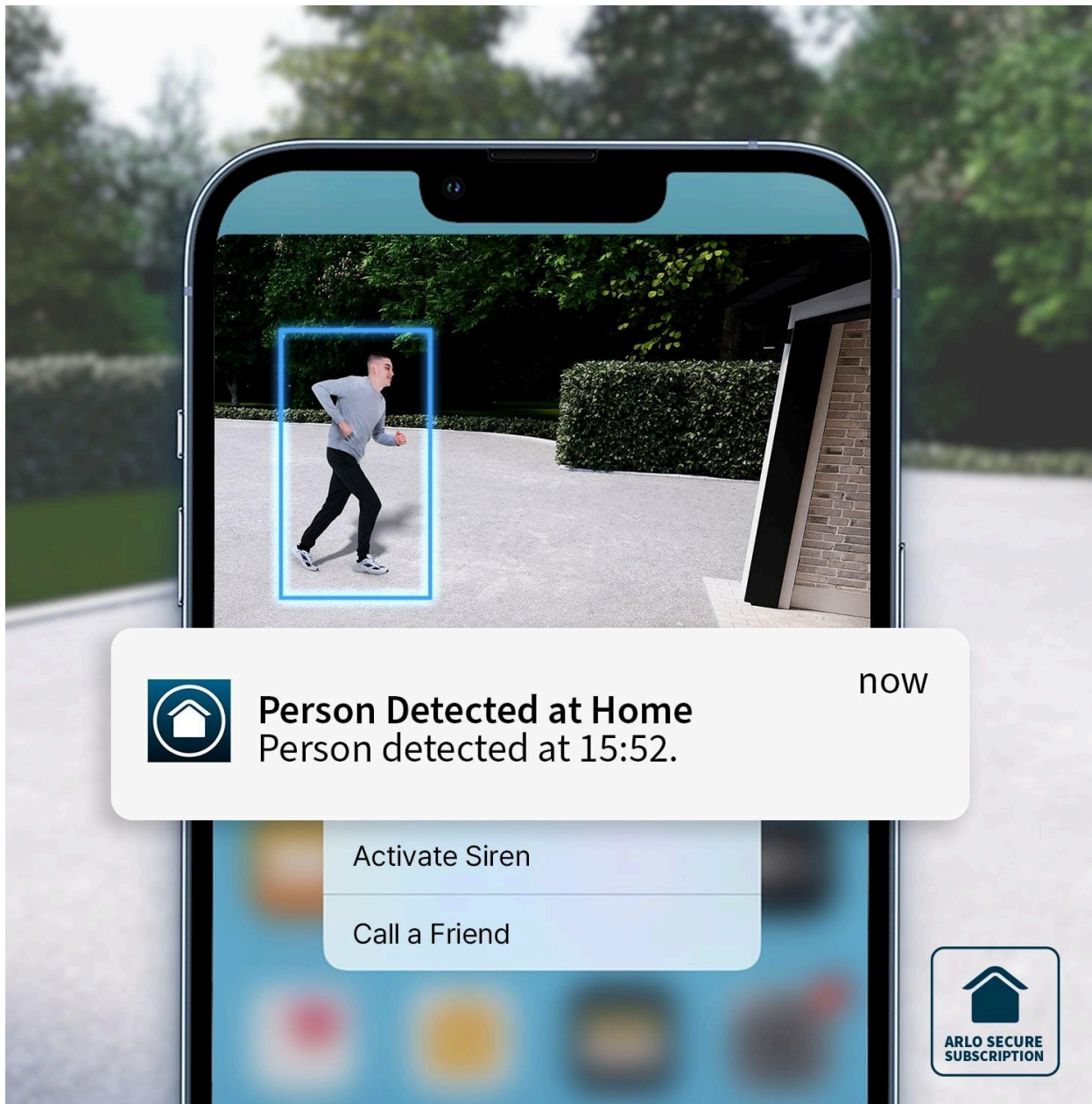
Step 5: Test the System

After installation:

1. Arm the security system.
2. Open a protected door.
3. Verify the alarm activates.
4. Confirm the dialer sends notifications.
5. Repeat the test for every sensor.









Additional Money-Saving Tips

- Reuse existing sensors whenever possible.
- Perform monthly testing to prevent failures.
- Replace backup batteries before they fail.
- Use self-monitoring if you are comfortable responding to alerts.
- Compare cellular plans before selecting a cellular dialer.

Advantages of Self-Monitoring

Lower Costs

You may eliminate recurring monitoring fees.

Faster Personal Notification

You receive alerts directly on your phone.

Greater Control

You decide how to respond to alarms.

Easy Expansion

Additional sensors can often be added later.

Final Thoughts

Adding a dialer to a door or window sensor security system can be a cost-effective way to receive alarm notifications without paying for professional monitoring. Verify compatibility with your alarm panel, select the appropriate communicator, and thoroughly test the system after installation. Regular maintenance and testing will help ensure reliable operation when an alarm occurs.