

# Securing Vacant Sites

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Irish Security  
Industry Association



Vacant sites can run the risk of attracting various forms of unwanted activity such as anti-social behaviour, the illegal dumping of waste or the illegal occupation of the land. The Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) has compiled some guidance to be considered when securing vacant sites or when reviewing the security of a site.

### **Vehicular Entrances**

If there are vehicular entrances or locked gates to the site this is not necessarily enough of a deterrent to prevent trespassing onto the site. Locks may be broken to grant access to the site. Therefore, vehicular entrances should be secured with large boulders or large rubble that cannot be easily moved. Ditches or moates should be considered.

### **Securing the Perimeter**

Fencing should be installed around the full perimeter of the site. Palisade fencing should be considered. If fencing is already in place, it should be assessed to ensure that it has not been damaged and is fit for purpose. A trench or ditch may be dug around the perimeter to ensure maximum security. Regular patrols and inspection of the site should be carried out.

### **Monitored CCTV**

Monitored CCTV is an extremely effective way of ensuring the security of the site. To maximise the effectiveness of an electronic security system it should be remotely monitored by a monitoring station. If there is a breach of the site the monitoring station will then be notified. This will allow them to generate a suitable response to the breach. Electronic security systems (Intruder Alarms & CCTV) must only be installed and maintained by a Private Security Authority (PSA) licensed security installer.

### **Lighting**

Lighting is an important security tool and may deter trespassers and reinforce the security of the site.

### **Signage**

Signage is a low cost and effective way of keeping a site secure and deterring potential trespassers. Signage that should be considered include signs that notify potential trespassers that the property is privately owned and that trespassers will be prosecuted. Where CCTV is in use, signage must be in place to comply with requirements of GDPR. When applicable, community alert and neighbourhood watch signs may be of benefit, alerting potential trespassers to the fact that this site is part of an active community. Implementing signage puts a positive personality on the site.

### **Manned Patrols**

Engaging security guarding services can be extremely effective in ensuring the site is kept secure. This security solution provides the site owners with a visible human security presence and can often be the best deterrent. It also allows for the site owner to be notified if there is suspicious activity around the site or an attempted breach of the site.

### **Finding a Supplier**

Combining manned, electronic and physical security solutions is the best approach when securing a vacant site. Seeking the advice of a good security supplier or independent security consultant will assist you when assessing your security requirements. Members of the Irish Security Industry Association (ISIA) have been helping organisations and private residents to stay secure for over 45 years. To find an ISIA security supplier [click here](#).