

Tips: Keeping Your Home & Family Safe

In any given year, property crimes, including burglary, outnumber violent crimes almost 8 to 1. Statistics show a burglar will spend 45 minutes deciding which home to target next, but only 3 minutes actually burglarizing it.

Here is a list of things you can do to help you keep your family safe.

- Install a home security system with a UL Certified monitoring station. If you move into a home that already has a security alarm, be sure to change the entry code.
- All exterior doors should have a solid core and a high-quality deadbolt, including the door connecting the garage and the house. Secure all windows with quality locks, including windows on the second floor.
- Keep your property well lit at night and install motion lights. Keep shrubs trimmed so they don't hide windows.
- Always lock your doors and don't hide spare keys outside. Consider installing a keypad lock on your front door, so you don't need keys.
- Working parents with latchkey kids should consider a remote entry/home system that lets you use your cell phone to monitor cameras at home, unlock doors, turn lights off and on and receive text alerts when the kids come home from school.
- When you go away, ask a neighbor to keep an eye on your home and collect your mail and newspapers. If you are going away for a long period, consider having your deliveries stopped until you return. Put a few lights on timers so it looks like someone is home.
- Don't let your kids play alone outside or in public places.
- Never put your child's name on clothes, jewelry, hats, back packs or other belongings that people can easily see.
- Teach your children to never say they are home alone when talking on the phone. Tell them to let the answering machine pick up or that you can't come to the phone right now because you are busy.
- If your child rides a bike to school, make sure they have a high-quality bike lock and attach the bike to a secure object, like a bike rack.

A-1 SECURITY ALARMS PROVIDES A VARIETY OF SECURITY EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS SECURITY ALARMS, ACCESS CONTROL, CCTV AND ENTRY GATE SYSTEMS. WE CAN COME TO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS AND SUPPLY YOU WITH A FREE PROPOSAL FOR THE CUSTOM SECURITY YOU ARE LOOKING FOR.

Tips: Home Heating Safety

Home fires spike in the winter months. Home heating was associated with an average of 33,300 fires and 180 fire deaths per year from 2005 to 2007.

Carbon monoxide (CO) threat also increases in the winter months.

Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are an important line of defense and give you valuable time to escape.

Tips for preventing fires;

- Place space heaters on a flat, level floor. Never place space heaters on carpets or rugs. Keep the heater at least three feet from any flammable materials. Keep away from children and animals.
- Never leave a space heater on when you are not in the room or while you are sleeping.
- Never put gasoline in a kerosene space heater.
- Have fireplace flues and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year.
- Open the fireplace damper before lighting a fire, and keep it open until the ashes are cool to help prevent poisonous gas build-up in the home.
- Always store fireplace ashes in a fire-resistant container and cover with a lid. Keep container outdoors, away from combustibles. Dispose of ashes carefully, keep away from dry leaves, trash and other combustible materials.

Tips for preventing CO poisoning;

- Schedule a yearly professional inspection of any fuel-burning home heating system, including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, wood stoves, water heaters, chimneys, flues and vents.
- Never operate a portable gasoline-powered generator in the home or any enclosed place, including a garage or shed.
- Keep portable generators away from your home and your neighbors' home. Deadly carbon monoxide gases can seep into the home from an open window, door or vent.
- When purchasing a new space heater, find one that has a safety certification mark. These heaters have the most up-to-date safety features.
- Don't use a portable propane space heater indoors or in a confined space, unless it is specifically designed for indoor use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for proper use.
- Never use gas or electric stoves to heat the home.

A-1 SECURITY ALARMS CAN INSTALL A HEAT/SMOKE OR CO DETECTOR TO ALMOST ANY ALARM SYSTEM. IF YOUR ALARM IS MONITORED, IT WILL SOUND THE ALARM AND ALERT THE MONITORING STATION WHETHER YOUR ALARM IS ARMED OR DISARMED. THIS GIVES YOU 24/7 MONITORING FOR THESE DANGERS. CALL FOR PRICING.

Change System Battery (Hardwired Systems)

In order to do this you will first need to locate the alarm control panel. It is usually located in a closet.

Open the control panel and slide off the red and black wires connected to the battery. Don't let the wires touch.

Take the battery with you to a BatteriesPlus near you. If you don't have a BatteriesPlus near you, try Radio Shack. They will dispose of your old battery for you.

Put the new battery back into the panel and reconnect the red and black wires to the battery.

Control Panel



Battery



Changing Contact Batteries

1. Call the Monitoring station at 1-800-318-9486 for All American Monitoring or 1-866-383-0333 for Marlin Central Monitoring, and ask that your system be placed in “TEST” mode.
2. Locate the notch on the side of the contact.
3. Gently press in on the notch and pull the cover apart, starting with the side with the notch.
4. Remove the battery.
5. Locate the + symbol on the device (very small).
6. Replace with a new battery (+) to (+) on contact.
7. Replace the cover to contact, starting with the side opposite of notch.

GE Contact



DSC Contact



*Use screwdriver

Power Down Panel

Sometimes there will be situations where you will need to power down your alarm panel.

In order to do this you will first need to locate the alarm control panel. It is usually located in a closet.

Open the control panel and slide off the red wire connected to the battery.

Then you will need to locate your transformer which is screwed into an outlet.

Unscrew and unplug the transformer.

To power system back up, plug the transformer back in and reconnect the red wire to the battery.

Transformer



Control Panel



Battery

