

Tips On Buying An Effective Alarm System

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Burglary is one of the most commonly committed crimes in the United States. Because most homeowners fear that their homes are at risk of being broken into, they purchase insurance to protect their homes from losses due to burglary and fires.

Although insurance to protect them from losses is valuable, a more important thing to consider is installing alarms to monitor and alert authorities on unauthorized entry and in cases of fire.

No insurance company can recover the losses due to damaged or stolen files, pictures, and items of sentimental value. Insurance companies also cannot restore the time lost due to the hassles of filing a claim. It is because of this that alarm systems are as important, if not more so, than insurance to a homeowner.

In buying an alarm system, don't just purchase whatever is popular in the market. Consider your needs, the house structure, its wiring system, and other aspects of your household before deciding what to install. Remember that what could have been effective for another house or establishment may not be effective for yours.

Here are a few things to think about before making a purchase.

\* How many entrances are going to be integrated into the alarm system?

Consider the number of windows and doors in the house. It is advisable that all windows and doors, even the smaller attic windows, should be connected to the alarm system. The number of entrances determines the complexity of the wirings and it also determines where you should put control centers to turn the alarm on or off.

\* Decide on the alarm system company to install the security devices.

Consult a security system specialist, an insurance agency, the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (NBFAA) or the police department for recommendations.

#### **Security Camera**



Make sure that the company does a free survey and inspection. Ask for the installer's recommendation, an explanation for his assessment, and the price quote. Have it properly documented so you can compare it with the contract once you decide to purchase the services of the company.

You also have an option to buy a do-it-yourself alarm system, although this may not be as reliable as a system installed by professionals. This is usually the "bells only" system where the homeowner is alerted by a sound if unauthorized entry sets the alarm off.

\* Should you subscribe to a monitoring station?

An advanced alarm system can connect to a 24-hour monitoring company that alerts them if the system has recorded a break-in. The monitoring company then alerts the local police. This is the best option, though an agreement with a monitoring company requires a monthly fee.

Another option, which is less expensive, is to install dialer accessories that will be linked to your phone line. In case a breakin was detected, the dialer could call several pre-programmed numbers, such as your cell phone number, to inform you of the intruder. A problem that can occur with this, however, is that if the burglar had cut off the phone lines before the entry, the dialer accessories would be of no use.

\* Decide on the sensors' location and sensitivity.

This is very important if the people who live in the house get up at night and roam around. Also, consider the presence of pets that can set the alarm system off.

If you have a motion sensor, make sure that this is installed in places high enough not to be disturbed by pets. You can also ask about motion sensors that will not be triggered by pets. These sensors can identify the size and weight of the target.

### Fit Locks To Help Make Your Home More Secure

If you have an infrared sensor, make sure it is properly located so it won't detect areas that have heat sources.

\* Assess the proper location for the control panel and keypads.

Ideally, a keypad is near the front door for ease in turning the alarm on/off when leaving the house or upon getting home. Another keypad may be mounted near the bedrooms to be a manual trigger in case an entry is not detected by the alarm system.

\* Check the possibility of home automation.

There are burglar alarm systems that can also be connected to carbon monoxide and smoke sensors, flood detectors, and lighting systems. This may be helpful in turning on all the lights during emergencies.

\* Type of controls

The controls should be easy to use so that the household members can remember how to use them during emergency situations. The switches should also be properly protected to prevent damage from freezing when the climate changes.



\* Should you go wired or wireless?

The difference here depends on the complexity of the installation. A wired system is complex and requires drilling holes on the walls. A wireless system costs a little more than the wired system but its installation is not inconvenient.

With this information, you can be prepared when selecting what type of alarm system will be needed for your home.

# THANK YOU

#### We Welcome Your Feedback

feel free to get in touch with us for any feedback or questions

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