



HOME ALARMS

LVMPD Crime Prevention
"Citizen Awareness is the Best Crime Prevention."



Home alarm systems can be an effective crime prevention tool for many homeowners. They add an extra layer of protection against unwanted intrusion. Additionally, they provide the homeowner some peace of mind. Home alarm systems vary in type and quality. Before purchasing a home alarm system, here are some things to consider.

- The average home alarm system, professionally installed, varies greatly in price. Most require a monthly monitoring fee that you commit to via a contract.
 - The average do-it-yourself home alarm system can be very effective and does not require a monthly monitoring fee or a contract. They are gaining in popularity.
 - Know what you want. The options are many and the homeowner has the advantage of selection and suppliers. Research both the professionally installed and the do-it-yourself systems.
 - Do you want intrusion detection only, or do you want fire and smoke detection, water leak detection, etc.?
 - Do you want a monthly monitoring service? Costs vary from about \$30-\$50 a month and the responses vary.
 - How many non-fee false alarm calls do you get before being charged?
- This is important to know.**
- Find out if responses are telephone only or the dispatching of an alarm company representative who may either be armed or unarmed.
 - Find out where the monitoring station is located – locally or out of state.

Other Considerations

1. Find out the qualifications of those installing your system and monitoring

your alarm.

2. Find out how many responders are on duty and what the average response time is.
3. Find out what happens if you move or want to cancel your service. Compare prices and services — get at least 3 bids. Ask questions and get educated about home alarms.
 - Ask for written proposals that spell out everything from what you are buying.
 - How much does it cost?
 - What are the installation fees?
 - What are the monitoring fees?
 - What is the length of the service you are getting?
 - What are the maintenance and repair procedures, etc.?
4. Seek a licensed state contractor.
5. Check with the Better Business Bureau.
6. Get recommendations from neighbors, friends, or family.
7. Check out what is available from home improvement centers, electronic stores, Internet, and security catalogs, etc.?
8. Learn the basics before shopping. The Internet is a great resource.
9. Consider your needs and the ease and convenience for use. Your system should be family and pet friendly and not intimidating.
10. Consider having a second control panel and/or a panic button installed in the master bedroom. Consider having a deadbolt lock on the bedroom door.
11. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Don't be pressured into a purchase.
12. Find out what happens to your system in times of power outages. Is there a battery backup?
13. Ask your home insurance company about discounts for home security systems that have been installed in your home.

