

Home Security Alarms & What You Should Know!

Not to be an Alarmist, but



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But did you know that home security systems may actually attract burglars? Shocking, but true.

Each year, Americans spend more than \$18 Billion on professional alarm systems. Unfortunately, according to security consultant Walter Shaw, some of those systems may actually be attracting burglars. Shaw, a former burglar, contends that when thieves see a house with a security system sign on it, they know it typically means that the house actually has something of value inside...which makes it a better target for them to consider breaking into.

In addition, Shaw notes that determined thieves can actually use those security system signs to their advantage. First, if the sign displays the name of the alarm system company, a thief may be able to use that information to research the system and figure out how to bypass it. Second, thieves may decide to test the system. By tripping the alarm on purpose, burglars can gain a better idea of how long they'll have to get in and get out before the police arrive!

So do alarm systems help at all?

The answer, thankfully, is YES! A recent study indicated that alarm systems are still the single most effective way to reduce the risk of burglary. Interestingly, some preventive measures such as deadbolts do little to dissuade burglars, since these measures cannot be seen until a burglar has already chosen a house...at which point they tend to pursue it and find a way in, regardless of the deadbolts.

Here's how to best protect your home.

First, make sure any alarm signs posted on or around your home are generic--without the name of the security company. In addition, you might want to consider adding security cameras-or even fake cameras-around your entrances and windows. No thief wants to be caught on tape...even if they're wearing a mask. Also, make sure that bushes and branches are cleared away from windows and entrances.

For more help with your house's security, you should seek advice from a professional security provider. Be sure to tell them about your specific concerns and ask how to best address them.

