

# Alarm System Checklist

By Nicole Nichols-West

- Alarm System
  - Know what you expect the alarm system to achieve in terms of protection.
  - Decide if you want the alarm system to link to a 24 hour monitoring service provided by a vendor.
  - Survey your home and determine how many windows and doors you want to be integrated into the home security system.
  - Determine possible locations for the control panel and keypads.
  - Determine how far away windows and doors are from the control panel.
  - Choose a system with a control panel that can monitor all the zones you have in your home.
  - Make certain that a wireless system can perform up to the distance of the farthest zone.
  - Be certain that the system you choose can accept fire-protection sensors, carbon monoxide sensors etc.
  - Make certain that inputting codes into the keypad is not a complicated process.
  - Work the keypad of the system you select to assure yourself that it is easy to use.
- Alarm Systems Company
  - Ask if the company carries general liability, workman's compensation, and errors/omissions insurance.
  - Ask to see the company's business license.
  - Ask for referrals of other customers in your area that have had systems installed like the one you are considering.
  - Ask if the company has been established for three to five years.
  - Ask where alarm system monitoring center is located.
  - Be sure the company does the entire installation and does not subcontract work.
  - Review the contract carefully before you sign.
  - Know what the warranty period is and what is included in the warranty.