



**FARA**  
False Alarm Reduction Association

**False Alarm Prevention**  
**Information For Alarm Users**

faraonline.org - 301.519.9237

## **DO-IT-YOURSELF ALARM SYSTEMS**

There are many types of Do-It-Yourself burglar alarm systems ranging from an all-in-one device, to a several component system. You need to research and choose the one that best fits your needs. Visit the FARA Alarm User Site at <http://alarmuser.org> for more information.

Improperly installed or operated alarm systems can lead to false alarms. When you install an alarm system on your own, you assume all the responsibility to avoid false alarms.

Please keep in mind the following things when purchasing and installing a Do-It-Yourself system:

- Read and follow the directions about where to put and not to put the sensors, as well as how to mount them to doors, windows, walls or ceilings.
- If you use double stick tape to mount a device make sure to clean the spot where you will apply the tape and use the tape supplied by the manufacturer. If you have an option to use a screw to mount the device, do so. If equipment slips or becomes unglued it will cause an alarm to be triggered.
- When you choose where to put your alarms sensors, keep in mind that pets, decorations, curtains and heating ducts will cause movement enough to trigger your alarm.
- Most public safety agencies do not allow direct dial or accept automated calls from alarm systems. Check with your local jurisdiction before you purchase or program an alarm system that 'direct dials'. There may be costly fines associated with a system with that feature.
- Contact your public safety agency for registration/permit requirements, as well as what phone number to call in the event of an alarm. If there are alarm regulations in effect, you will usually be subject to the same registration/permit requirements and fines that apply to a user with a professionally installed system.
- An alarm system needs general upkeep, maintenance and repair. It is especially important to periodically replace the batteries in the alarm system. If you are having trouble with your alarm system, contact the manufacturer or consult a licensed alarm company.
- If your alarm calls a friend or relative in the event of an alarm, make sure they know when you have visitors or scheduled deliveries or repairs that could cause a false alarm.
- If your alarm is monitored by an alarm monitoring company, be sure to ask them to call the site where the alarm is located and then call your cell phone before they call for public safety response. Making these calls first will avoid many false alarms.
- Keep alarm monitoring company and public safety agency phone numbers in your cell phone so they are handy in case you need to report or cancel an alarm call.

Do-It-Yourself systems can be a viable and cost effective alternative to a professionally installed alarm system, but before you make the purchase, make sure you are ready to accept the full responsibility to avoid false alarms. If you are not ready, then explore having your alarm professionally installed. Taking steps to ensure proper design and installation, and maintaining your system, can result in a successful security solution in this fast paced, self-serve world.