



# Maximizing Your Alarm System's Effectiveness

## TEST YOUR ALARM SYSTEM



- Make sure you test your alarm system periodically. Monthly testing is preferred, but at the very least test quarterly. If you have VOIP technology, you need to test even more frequently.
- Call your alarm company BEFORE you test your alarm system in order to put it in test mode. Failing to do so may result in costly false alarm fines from your town or local law enforcement.
- Testing your system ensures the system is in working order. Be sure to include doors, windows and motion sensors in the testing process.

## MAINTAIN YOUR SYSTEM

- Batteries and the alarm system itself need to be maintained, updated and replaced at regular intervals.
- Low batteries cause false alarms. Alarm panel batteries need to be replaced every 3-4 years or more frequently if you experience power outages.
- Regardless of whether your alarm system is wireless or wired, both types of systems have batteries that can fail and need to be replaced.
- Annual maintenance ensures that your system is up to date and in good working order. Contact your alarm company for more information on annual or biennial service agreements.



## USE YOUR ALARM SYSTEM



- Burglar alarms deter criminals from entering your home, but they only work if you use them.
- User error is the #1 cause of false alarms.
- Use your alarm system on a daily and nightly basis. The more familiar you are with your system, the less likely you are to cause a false alarm.
- Get to know the ins and outs of your alarm system and what it can do for you.

**Your alarm system may summon a law enforcement response. This is a serious function and should be treated with great care.**