

Protect your property

By Joanna Ernst/Homes Writer

A home security system is a significant investment for any residential property. Not only does it offer the homeowner peace of mind, it also discourages the possibility of a break-in, which weighs favorably on homeowners insurance (with discounts up to 20 percent). As crime generally continues to increase, property owners are faced with a new priority, protecting their home against possible invasion.

“Homeowners should consider a security system immediately,” advised Chris Tulip, residential sales consultant at Protection One Security. “In a lot of situations, the catalyst [for purchasing a security system] is a burglary or fire. You want to get this done before something happens, not after the fact.”

Homeowners oftentimes overlook the significance of a system that will safeguard their largest investment— not to mention all the valuables stored inside. With the foresight to install the right system, homeowners can defend the home, minimize the risk that a crime would even be attempted and sleep more soundly at night.

Traveling extensively for

work is one major reason to drive interest in security, according to Tulip. He also cited that a system is ideal for school-age children. The camera gives vigilant parents access to monitor that the kids are out of harm’s way – and diligently completing homework assignments.

There is no set scenario that warrants a system; a custom-designed approach accommodates the unique needs of every home and owner. “It could be a small home that’s protected like Fort Knox, if that’s what the family is comfortable with,” Tulip said. “Or, a larger home could have a minimalist protection plan.”

So what are the trends in today’s top defense systems? According to Tulip, the new generation of security involves the shift into the digital realm. Unlike the landlines of the past, the techniques today embrace Smartphone and laptop communication. From your everyday machines, you can arm and disarm the system. And with this advanced technology, remote access means that homeowners always have awareness of the homefront via the World Wide Web.

Some systems, particularly for elderly couples, include a medical button which triggers a phone call to an emergency



center. Commonly, fire and carbon monoxide detectors provide additional safety and insurance benefit, a factor that Tulip said, “make the cost of the system more stomachable.”

The basic options cover doors and windows, while more intricate methods bring in a second line of defense courtesy of wireless sensors in heavily-trafficked areas. “The bad guy comes in through the window, but he’s leaving with the big-screen TV through the door,” Tulip said.

A security system is the homeowner’s best defense against a possible invasion, but Tulip laid out a few guidelines to minimize risk in general. “Make sure all the doors and windows are locked. Use timers for lights, so that different lights come on at various intervals when you’re not home for long periods of time. And people forget about social networking...don’t announce your vacation on Facebook. Keep the bushes trimmed, and get a motion detector for outside. You want to make your home look as uninviting as possible. Keep your valuables in a safety deposit box – if it’s not available in the house, they can’t take it.”

The right home security system depends on the homeowner’s unique needs .

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