**GUIDE TO BUYING A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM**

* What is the contract period for the monitoring agreement? Is the monthly fee fair? Is the contract “auto renewing?”
* Is the monitoring company professional and reliable?
* Will you be buying the alarm equipment or “leasing” it?
* Is the alarm equipment of good quality? Is it universally distributed and serviceable?
* What is the total cost of all additional equipment including installation?
* Are there any “hidden” charges (i.e. “Customer Installation Charges”)
* Is the alarm panel grounded (protected from electrical surges)?
* Does the panel have battery backup?
* Who will perform the installation and service the system? Will the install be done by the company or by a subcontractor?
* Is the wiring professional, secure and will not cause false alarms?
* Have you read ALL of the FINE PRINT?
* Does the security company provide a certificate for your homeowner’s insurance company?
* What is included with the security system?
* Control Panel (grounded with battery backup)
* Keypads (with alpha text / touch screen)
* Speakers (with siren driver card for voice messages)
* Contacts on all doors
* Window contacts
* Wireless receiver for any wireless devices
* Pet immune dual technology motion sensors
* Smoke, heat, and gas detectors
* Low temperature and flood alarms
* Police, fire and emergency keypad buttons
* Lawn sign and window decals
* Personal instruction on the usage of the security system
* **Can you TRUST your alarm company?**

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