



## Information for Alarm Users

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# How Remodeling Your Home or Business Can Cause False Alarms



**Always, always, always** contact your alarm company **prior** to starting any remodeling project. You need to work with your alarm company to make sure the remodeling process does not cause false alarms and that your system will continue to work correctly after the work is done. Discuss all of the following situations with your alarm company to determine the best course of action to follow.

- Wiring concealed in your walls, floors or ceilings can be disrupted by remodeling projects.
- Consider having your alarm company disconnect affected alarm wiring in advance of your remodeling. Remember that portions of your system may be active even when you have turned your system off at the keypad.
- Erecting new walls may block what your motion detector was designed to see, preventing detection. New walls may also shorten the area the detector is sensing, which may cause a false alarm due to increased sensitivity. New walls can also block the radio signals that allow some systems to indicate an alarm.



- Tearing down old walls may cause a motion detector to pick up movement it would not normally see with the wall in place including things such as cars on the street, sunlight streaming through a window or your pet walking through "his part of the house."
- Work outside your home including the installation of new siding, roofs, windows, and doors will cause a huge ruckus with noise, vibration and dust. In some cases wiring may be concealed behind exterior siding. So, even if you are not letting trade people into your home, you still need to be aware of the effects of outside work on your alarm system.

- Dust and dirt are a necessary evil in all remodeling projects. Particles will adhere to smoke and motion sensors and will affect their proper operation.
- If you will be away from your home or business during any portion of the remodeling project and decide to provide contractors with keys to your home, ensure that they know how to properly operate your system, understand the procedures to cancel a dispatch and are provided with temporary passwords.



- Remember that if a contractor causes a false alarm, you, as the home or business owner will still be responsible for that unnecessary law enforcement response.
- When the remodeling is completed, have your alarm company inspect and evaluate it to make sure that the alarm system will continue to operate properly.
- Consider temporarily adding your contractor to your emergency contact list during the remodeling process.

**False alarms during and after a remodeling project can be avoided, if you take the time to consider your alarm system and the effects the project will have on it, as well as consult with your alarm company throughout the remodeling project.**