Protect Yourself From Fraud

If you are home during the day, you are more likely to meet door-to-door salespersons. While some door-to-door salespersons are honest, the chances exist that whoever answers the door is about to be ripped off. Door-to-door salespersons are charming and friendly. They are successful because they seem so honest.

Be on the Lookout for Door to Door Solicitors Who ...

- Greet you by name to seem friendly.
- Use tricks to get into your home – they may imply they are from your alarm company and need to test or upgrade your alarm system – reputable alarm companies will not send technicians to your home unannounced.
- Say they want to upgrade your old or outdated security system.
- Say that you need to take advantage of the offer TODAY – reputable alarm companies will provide you with the time you need to carefully consider your purchase, and Maryland law gives you three business days to change your mind on any contract signed in your home.
- Say that the system you have is vulnerable or can be disabled easily – they do not know what type of alarm system you have, so cannot make this claim.
- Say that their system does not use a phone line.
- Say that it is not necessary to contact your alarm company prior to having another alarm company work on your security system.

Check the Licenses

The best safeguard against faulty and hazardous work is to make sure the company you hire has a ***valid license*** from the Maryland State Police. Do **NOT** accept a ***company ID*** card. Ask to see their license, which should look like the sample on the left. If the door-to-door sales persons cannot produce this license, DO NOT conduct business with them. Ask the persons to immediately leave your property and call the police if they refuse.

Montgomery County requires door-to-door salespersons to obtain a Solicitor's License from the Office of Consumer Protection. Ask to see that license as well. The Department of Police, False Alarm Reduction Section, also issues a license to every alarm company conducting business within Montgomery County. Ask for the license number and call our office at 240/773-6300 to verify its validity.

Avoid Having Your Service Switched and Being Double-Billed

Unfortunately, if you sign a contract without checking all the details, you may end up paying two companies for the same service. Before they do any work, ***check the license, call your alarm company and/or call the False Alarm Reduction Section.***

Montgomery County Police Department, False Alarm Reduction Section
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www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police

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