The Ultimate Guide to Home Security
It’s easy to think of home security as merely keeping burglars away from your home, but it goes well beyond that. A home security system provides peace of mind for fire prevention, home surveillance, medical emergencies and even those days when you forget your house key at the office.

It may seem like a full-time job, but that’s why we’re here – to offer Florida’s leading home security solution.

Review this guide for helpful information and to determine if a monitored home security system is right for your family.
University of North Carolina at Charlotte researchers went straight to the source, interviewing nearly 400 convicted offenders. 83% said they took steps to determine whether or not an alarm system was present before selecting a home to rob, and the majority said if there was a security system installed they would move on to an easier target.

Video surveillance systems are another big deterrent. 60% of burglars said the presence of security cameras is a major consideration in choosing a target.

Crime Prevention Security Systems installs and monitors industry-leading residential alarm systems to prevent burglars from invading your home.

“Neighborhoods in which burglar alarms were densely installed have fewer incidents of residential burglaries than neighborhoods with fewer burglar alarms.”

-Rutgers University School of Criminal Justice
What Should I Ask When Getting a Home Alarm System?

If you’re looking for your first home security system, odds are you’re really not sure where to start. Here are some critical questions to ask when comparing residential alarm systems.

1. How does the alarm system work?
Find out how your specific home alarm system will work. The right home security company will be more than happy to explain the difference between wireless and hardwired systems and how individual sensors will operate within the home.

2. Is the system tamper-proof?
While no alarm system is 100% tamper-proof, you want to make sure critical components are as protected as possible. Power and communication wires and sensors should not be easily accessible outside the home, and all alarm system components should be protected from the elements to avoid damage.

3. Do I need a monitored system?
Any alarm system you choose should be monitored 24 hours a day to ensure any triggered alarm notifies a staffed monitoring center to dispatch police or fire rescue. Some alarm systems may only create an audible siren inside the house, which does little to save your property when you’re not home.

4. What options should I consider for my alarm system?
Home automation is one of the most popular options for home security, allowing you to control your alarm system, adjust your thermostat, turn on and off lights and lock or unlock doors from anywhere in the world via internet or smartphone app. Additionally, you may want to look into a home video surveillance system to see and record what’s happening inside and outside your home 24 hours a day.

5. Can I read some customer testimonials?
A trusted alarm system company should be more than happy to share feedback they received from current customers. If you’re talking to a company that’s not as willing to share what their customers have to say about them, there might be cause for concern.

Crime Prevention Security Systems operates a state-of-the-art, 24-hour-a-day monitoring center in the heart of Florida, supported by a backup facility, to ensure no emergency goes unanswered.
Here are some additional factors to consider:

**Always Home**
Like most good dog owners, you probably take your pup with you on walks, running errands or even on vacation. Without a home security system, these times provide perfect opportunities for burglars. Having a monitored home security system, on the other hand, means your home is protected all day, every day.

**Notifying Police**
If the dog’s presence doesn’t scare off a burglar, the best you can hope is that his bark will catch the attention of neighbors. With a monitored home security system, our skilled staff will immediately call your home to check for an emergency. If no one answers or incorrect information is provided, we’ll automatically dispatch police to make an arrest and save your property.

**Homeowners Insurance**
Insurers know that homes with security systems are three times less likely to be targeted by burglars, so having a monitored home security system installed can reduce your homeowner’s insurance premium an average of 20%. That’s more than enough to offset the higher rates insurers often charge families with certain dog breeds.

**Guarding Against Other Risks**
A good home security system does more than just protect your home from intruders, it also guards against smoke, fire, carbon monoxide and other risks to people and pets alike.

Dogs enrich our lives in many ways, but relying on them for home security may be too much to ask.

Crime Prevention Security Systems can install a custom home security system designed to protect you and your family - even the furry, four-legged members.
Placing Fire Protection in Your Home
Install smoke detectors in every room (especially bedrooms) and carbon monoxide detectors in hallways. Multiple fire extinguishers should be placed throughout the house - kitchen, laundry room and near any common sources of flames like a fireplace or stove. Extinguishers should be highly visible and within reach in case of emergency.

Home Fire Protection Service
A monitored fire alarm system can truly save lives, alerting fire fighters of a fire in your home even if you’re not there - or worse, you’re home but unable to react to the danger.

Crime Prevention Security Systems’ fire protection services integrate easily with existing burglar alarms for total peace of mind and, unlike other companies, we don’t charge additional fees for 24/7 residential fire monitoring.

Family Fire Drills
Conducting regular family fire drills is one of the best ways to ensure your family has safely exited your home in the event of a fire. Your family should have a clearly defined plan to escape from each room, a plan to deal with any special needs like small children, and a designated meeting place away from the house.

85% of fire-related deaths happen in the home, and typically during hours when people are asleep.
Daily Habits that Undermine Home Security

Many people undermine their own home security with a handful of bad habits that can be easily remedied. Check below to see which of your daily activities are making your house less secure.

Fake Rock with a Key
The key in a rock is about as convenient as it gets – both for you and a potential burglar. If the key is under a mat, or a planter, or anywhere near your home’s doors, you can guarantee even amateur burglars know where to find it.

Lighting Mistakes
Exterior lights are one of the most effective ways to keep criminals away from certain areas outside your house. When you’re away, don’t leave interior lights on the whole time. Putting lights on a timer or remotely turning them on and off via home automation are more convincing ways to indicate you’re home.

Leaving Your Security System Unarmed
Even if you’re only leaving the house for a few minutes, it’s always important to arm your security system. It takes the average burglar only 57 seconds to gain access to a home.

DIY Home Security
Store-bought security systems are generally unmonitored, so your only hope is that the siren scares away the intruder, which isn’t always the case. Alternatively, many people rely on dogs, but dogs may be easily distracted or trapped away from the house.

Forgetting to Lock Doors and Windows
Most people remember to lock the front of the house, but forget the back door or windows. Burglars will take any possible entry route, and back doors and windows are one of the most common avenues of entry. Remind yourself and your family to lock windows after use and to lock every door behind you.

Posting Your Vacation Plans on Social Media
It’s natural to want to share your big plans and life events, but it can also be a burglar’s dream come true. You never really know who is listening to what you say on social media.
"Smart homes" were once only the stuff of science fiction. Now, our homes are increasingly under our control. It’s called home automation.

Home Automation: The Next Big Thing for Home Security

A home automation package from Crime Prevention Security Systems allows you to remotely control door locks, lights, air conditioning, surveillance cameras and more via Internet or smartphone. And the benefits are fantastic.

Miss Less Time from Work
If you’ve ever had to leave work to give a service person access to your home, you know how disrupting it can be. With home automation, you could simply unlock the door and monitor the work without ever leaving your office.

Keeping Tabs on the Kids
Instead of a house key, give your kids a code to unlock the front door after school. You’ll receive a notification letting you know the moment they get home. If you leave before they do in the morning, set their bedroom lights and radio to turn on to ensure they roll out of bed on time.

Enhanced Security
One of the biggest benefits of home automation comes from giving you total access to your home security system. You can set the security system, review security cameras, check on pets and manage any security concern — no matter where you are.

Smart Homes are Smart Money
Home automation comes with a host of financial benefits. By automating utility usage, most homeowners can save up to $200 a year.
Neighbors Serving Neighbors

With Crime Prevention Security Systems, you have a trusted partner to help keep your family, home and property safe from harm.

We know Orlando, Gainesville and Ocala better than anyone else in the business. With local technicians and a state-of-the-art local monitoring center, we’re here when you need us most.

For more Florida home security tips, visit CPSS.net/blog.