



# The Binkley Monitor



**Authorized  
Security Pro  
Dealer**

Quality • Satisfaction • Trust

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## The Value of Setting and Locking

When it comes to your home, the contents are valuable, therefore security from burglary is important. Yet many people overlook the simple things that promote this security, setting the alarm and locking doors and windows.

According to the latest U.S. Department of Justice statistics on Personal and Property Crimes 2005, 37% of household burglaries were committed by forcible entry, while 63% were committed without forcible entry. These statistics show two things. One is that a burglar prefers to enter your home when it is easier through an unsecured opening. Secondly there are more home owners that leave some way of unsecured access.

### Setting your Alarm:

In using your alarm, regularly set your alarm utilizing not only the **Away** mode, but use the **Stay** mode as well. Doors and windows may be closed but not locked. By using the Stay mode, your perimeter is armed even if the doors and windows are not locked. Those inside can remain inside being confident that the alarm will notify of an unauthorized entry. Some older alarm systems do not have

the Stay mode feature. You may want to consider upgrading your system in this case.

### Doors and Locks:

Having a solid core or metal door for entrance points is advised. Use a quality, heavy-duty, deadbolt lock with a one-inch bolt. And a heavy-duty, lock-in-knob set with a dead-latch mechanism should be considered. Having a heavy-duty strike plate with long screws to penetrate into your doorframe secures the door better as well. Having a peephole is another important accessory.

### Sliders and Windows:

Keeping your alarm decal visible is a great deterrent to the would-be burglar. Statistics show that when a burglar is aware of an alarm they will tend to avoid that home.

You may consider using blocking devices on all sliding glass doors and keep the latches and rollers in good condition. Older sliders can be lifted out of their frame. Installing anti-lift devices will help prevent this. Use anti-lift devices such as through-the-door pins or upper track screws.

Securing accessible windows with blocking devices that have no more than 6 inches for ventilation is advisable. Make sure that the burglar can't reach through to open a door or remove the window blocking. Anti-lift devices for windows should also be considered.



**Make sure that everyone knows how to secure the home.**

“Practice makes perfect” as the saying goes. Regular use of your alarm and locking up will help to deter the would-be burglar. If you need help with your alarm system please don't hesitate to contact us. “We Install Confidence” is our motto and being Diamond Certified demonstrates our commitment to you.

**Special points of interest:**

- Pay your bill online, Order a new battery, at [www.binkleystore.com](http://www.binkleystore.com)
- Users Guides [www.binkleyalarm.com](http://www.binkleyalarm.com)
- Make sure to test your alarm system at least monthly to verify communication to our monitoring facility.

**Archives:**

As we get started with our new newsletter we will be posting them online at [www.binkleyalarm.com/newsletter.htm](http://www.binkleyalarm.com/newsletter.htm). This way, for those who receive a quarterly or annual invoice you can still read about what's happening.

**Help Us:**

If you have subjects you would like to see covered in our newsletter, feel free to let us know. You can call, fax or email us anytime.

Fax: 707-545-1525

Email: [email@binkleyalarm.com](mailto:email@binkleyalarm.com)

## We have a winner!!!!

Thank you to all of you who sent in your ideas for the name of our new newsletter. Here are a few of the names that were sent in.

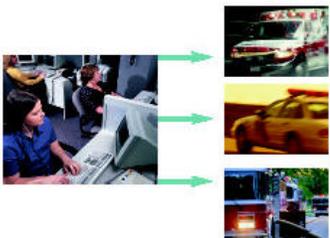
The Binkley Alert

- The Binkley Reporter
- The Binkley Monthly Post
- The Binkley Beacon
- The Binkley Ink-ley
- The Alarm Power View

- The Binkley Billboard
- The Binkley Eye
- The Binkley Bee
- The Binkley Bling
- Binkley Lifeline



Binkley Alarm provides residential and commercial video surveillance systems that are customized to your needs and applications.



Make sure you call the one of our dispatchers before you start testing your alarm system. 800-542-



Do you have a backup? Call us and ask about phone backup options for your alarm system today.

**Binkley Alarm has been providing Sonoma, Lake and Mendocino Counties service since 1968.**

## Testing Your Alarm System

Many of you have requested some instruction in regards to testing your alarm systems. First if you have a commercial fire alarm system it must be tested by trained personnel.

First thing you will want to do is make sure you have a valid code for your alarm and that you know how to reset all your systems devices (panic buttons, medical buttons, etc..) You may also want to let your neighbors know that you are testing your alarm if you have an exterior bell or siren that will sound. You will also want to be aware that while you are testing your alarm the interior sounder will be sounding the entire time.

The next thing you will want to do is call us to put your system on test. To do this call us at 800-542-5276 and request that your system be placed on test at which time you will be asked for your security ID code. This is the word, phrase or other ID Code you gave us to identify you. This is not the user code you operate your alarm with. Once your system has been placed on test, turn it on as if you were leaving. Make sure you open and close your entry door so the system

thinks you have left. Wait for the exit time to elapse and then wait an additional 60 second. Now you can walk through the structure making sure to walk in front of your motion sensors. You should see the LED come on in the sensor (some systems may have the LED bypassed for security or other reasons). After you have tripped all the motion sensors open each door and window that is part of the system (make sure that any doors with delays are left opened longer than your programmed entry time). At this time will also want to activate any panic or medical buttons you have. Once your have tripped each sensor in your home turn the alarm system off.

Now you will need to call our monitoring facility and have your system taken off test. At this time either request a print out of your account activity while your were on test or ask the operator to let you know what signals they received. Keep in mind that the operators are not technicians and they can not trouble shoot your system. They can however arrange for service if you feel it is needed.

Now if all you want to do is see

that the doors and windows are working and you are not worried about testing into the monitoring facility you can simply turn on the chime function and open and close each door and window and listen for the chime this will let you know that the system sees the sensor. This however does not verify communication to our monitoring facility

The following sensors should be tested by a trained technician as they may require special tools or products to properly test them.

Smoke Sensors

Heat Sensors

Carbon Monoxide Sensors

Glass Break Sensors

If you have questions about testing your alarm system you can call our office or email me directly at [email@binkleyalarm.com](mailto:email@binkleyalarm.com).

If at any time you would like to have our technicians come out to your site to test your alarm you can call and setup an appointment.

## How long should a battery last?

What is the expected life of an alarm battery? This is a good question and it depends on the a few things. What is the battery used in? what type of battery is it? How active is the device it is in? Here are a few stats for you.

Alarm Panel Batteries 3-5 years

Smoke Sensors Batteries standard 2-3 years  
Lithium 4-5 years

*This is only for smoke sensors installed and monitored by your alarm company. Standard smoke sensors should have there batteries change every year*

Door & Window sensors  
Residential 8-13 years  
Commercial 3-6 years

Micro Door & Window  
Residential 3-5 years

Motion sensors  
Residential 4-5 years  
Commercial 3-4 years

Another thing to keep in mind is that on commercial fire system all batteries are required to be replaced every 4 years regardless of condition.

In an effort to extend battery life Binkley Alarm installs battery cutoff modules in most of our security

alarm control panels. This module automatically disconnects the battery just prior to being completely discharged. By doing this we prevent possible damage caused by over discharging the battery. This also helps reduce false alarms due to insufficient power to the control panel.

If you have any specific questions about this subject feel free to email us at [email@binkleyalarm.com](mailto:email@binkleyalarm.com) or call our service department at 800-542-5276 Monday thru Friday between 8am and 4 pm.