

Secure Your Pets and Home

By [Karin Gott](#), Security Sales Specialist

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Most burglaries from homes take place during the day when most people are not home. Even with this fact there are things that you can do to deter these brazen acts in the light of day to protect your home and your pets.

- **Watch Your Back:** Thieves typically 'case' a house for ease of entry and value of target. They commonly enter from the back of the house out of sight of neighbors. Make certain your back doors and windows are secured and if you have a security system in place, put yard signs and window decals at the back of the house, as well as the front, for their proven deterrent message.
- **Noise is a Deterrent:** Because thieves may have 'cased' your house you must present a deterrent to entering. Thieves often innocently approach the front door with a knock or pressing the doorbell, and if nobody comes to the door they can easily get in. Noise from a radio or TV turned on, or a barking dog can be enough deterrent to have them think there is somebody home. It is the noise of the dog not the size of the dog that irritates thieves as it draws attention to them and may alert neighbors. Let's hear it for the yappers!!



- **Fix Your Doorbell.** When thieves ring your doorbell and somebody answers they can present an excuse about being at the wrong address or such. If nobody comes to the door, the doorbell is not working or heard by those in the house; a resident may find themselves face-to-face with the thief who is just as surprised, but certainly more dangerous. Avoid this potential pitfall by making sure your doorbell works.

- Keep Your Trash: Placing your trash out the night before may be convenient for you, but it also gives thieves more time to take note of what you have recently purchased. A computer box or flat screen box are sure giveaways for a tasty score. If you can't have the company that delivered the new items take away everything old with the packaging, wait until the morning to set them out with the trash bins.
- Food for thought: The first and often the most successful place thieves look for valuables is the master bedroom. The kitchen however is not as often of interest so store your valuables in a cereal box, a fake soup can or in a stack of noisy pots and pans. Under the bed and under the socks in a drawer is no match once the burglars are in your house.

These are just some of the many ways your home can be more secure. You can add greater protection while also improving safety by installing a monitored home alarm system. This provides a deterrent as thieves see the signs and decals which tell them they will have trouble once inside. With a properly armed system, there will be noise to disrupt their planned entrance and routine as well as potential additional consequences such as being caught on camera and police being dispatched. Finally, a system protects you and your family while in the house by providing a curtain of protection so you can enjoy the peace of mind you expect while being at home. Here are some key points to a good security system for your home.



Control of the security system is possible from any internet connected device.

- Cut Those Lines: Older alarm systems used phone lines that smart burglars can cut, disable the system, then proceed to break in with no notification being sent to the 24/7 monitoring service. Known as wireless, cellular or radio; current systems remove that vulnerability and add enhanced value as the cellular signaling is encrypted (our systems use the [Honeywell/AT&T network](#)) and have redundancy to strengthen the signal. There is also usually a cost savings to discontinue that land line and use the wireless technology.

- Wireless Part 2: Not only has the signaling from your system to the 24/7 monitoring station gone wireless, but sensors in you home can be wireless to ease installation while maintaining great reliability in communicating with your system's controller. Window and door sensors, glass breaks, and motion detectors properly placed in your home will set up a perimeter defense.

- Watch the Birdie!...er Dog...Cat: Great advances have been made in video cameras for better performance with lower cost. A camera installed in the home connected to the remote notification service of [Total Connect™](#) lets you 'look in' to see what your pet is doing at anytime. It also lets you set up areas which when entered by the pet, or anybody, you will receive notification and an image; a good way to monitor your den, liquor cabinet, the pool area or even the new sofa. Having this access from your smart phone, laptop, iPad or computer puts you in control from anywhere



Look-in feature of Total Connect™ added to a home security system

- More Than Security: A monitored home security system can also help you protect your enjoyment of your home with the use of smoke detectors, temperature sensors, water sensors, and more. Problems that are detected and you are notified about can avert costly or harmful damage when these sensors are combined with 24/7 monitoring and the direct notification to you through the remote notification service of Honeywell Total Connect™ .

Your Home is Unique: A home security system is a small investment with a large payoff – protecting the house, belongings, family members, pets, and provides peace of mind – that improves in effectiveness with the layout of the house and needs of its occupants included as part of the system design and installation. That is why I and the others at [Floyd Total Security](#) visit your home, see the structure and its layout, and get your input from an in-person onsite consultation – and it's free. A properly designed and implemented system will be used, and will be more effective, thanks to this input.



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Floyd Total Security is a privately held company that was founded in 1945. The first owner was Floyd E. Backman, a returning WWII veteran. Floyd offers the following security services: Access Control Systems, Closed Circuit Television and Recording Systems, Salto Inspired Security Solutions, Lock service and hardware sales, Central Station Burglary and Fire Alarm Systems and Integration services with our family of companies, Hannon Security and Security Response Services Inc.

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