

## Prevent burglaries during the holiday season

Most of us think of the holidays as a season of giving, but unfortunately, many burglars view it as an opportune time to go to work.

Nearly 400,000 burglaries occur in the U.S. during November and December alone.\* Of those burglaries, single-family homes are the most frequent victims. Burglars view the holiday season as an opportunity to swipe gifts, credit cards and cash lying out in the open.

Below are 10 tips to help keep you and your possessions safe during the holiday season.

1. Close your curtains when you're not home.
2. Don't place gifts in locations that are easily seen from windows.
3. When breaking down boxes from expensive gifts, turn them inside out.
4. Keep your garage door closed.
5. Lock up tools, ladders and other equipment that could be used to break into your home.
6. Install a timer for your lights so that your home always appears to be occupied.
7. If you'll be away for the holidays, have a neighbor pick up your newspaper every day so that it looks like you're home.
8. If it snows while you're away, make arrangements to have your driveway plowed.
9. Trim back trees and shrubs so that they don't cover your entrances.
10. Lock your doors and windows.

\*Source: FBI

## The difference between monitored and unmonitored smoke detectors

### Smoke detectors cont. from cover

also beep to notify you when batteries get low.

One of the characteristics of your standard unmonitored household smoke detectors – which are wired to your home's power supply – is the shape. They are typically a single layer structure. Another characteristic of these styles of smoke detectors is that they will typically have a green LED blinking power light and a back-up battery. This will allow the smoke detector to continue operating if there is a power failure in the home. These styles of smoke detectors have alarms that will notify you if a fire occurs. The alarm also activates when the back-up battery is low, notifying you that the battery needs changing.



An example of a non-monitored smoke detector



An example of a monitored smoke detector

One of many advantages of having a monitored smoke detector is the fact that monitored smoke sensors will notify the alarm system of changing conditions. The security system will acknowledge when smoke is detected by a sensor or if battery power is low. Then the alarm system will transmit the condition of the sensor to the monitoring center. Typically, when you have a beeping smoke detector, a sure way to tell if it's an alarm system smoke is by checking the status at the keypad on the security system. Hardwired monitored smoke sensors are also backed up for power outages by the alarm system back up battery.

If one of your smoke sensors is beeping, try changing the batteries. If you've determined that it is a

WH Security monitored smoke sensor and the beeping persists after changing the batteries, please contact a WH Security technician at (763) 477-3664 or [servicetech@wh-security.com](mailto:servicetech@wh-security.com).

## Win a Kindle through WH Security's Facebook contest!



1. Go to: [www.facebook.com/WHSec](http://www.facebook.com/WHSec)
2. Click the "like" button
3. Follow the link to the contest: <http://goo.gl/F92Gh>
4. Fill in your information
5. And enjoy our page!



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## Protect your home from freeze damage this winter with a low temperature sensor

Like it or not, cold temperatures are inevitable in Minnesota, and with those cold temperatures comes the risk of having freeze damage occur to your property.

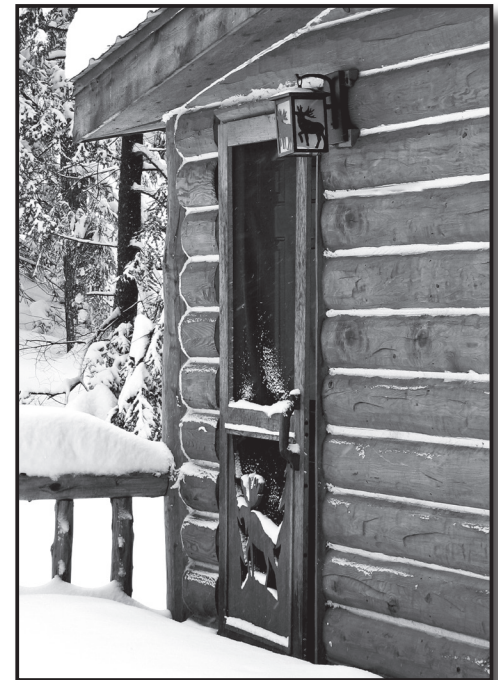
If you worry about broken pipes and freeze damage, a low temperature sensor may be the perfect solution for you. This sensor alerts WH Security dispatchers when the temperature inside a home falls below a pre-determined level. In turn, dispatchers will inform you of the problem so you can take action before your pipes freeze and damage occurs. Low temperature sensors can be added on to new or existing security systems. These devices can save unoccupied homes or cabins from frozen pipes, water damage and frost.

Adding a low temperature sensor to an existing system is a smart choice for those that spend time away from home during the winter months or for those that have a cabin that will be left unattended.

If you choose to add a low temperature sensor to your system, your monthly monitoring rate will not be affected, and it will only take a service technician a short time to install and test it.

For more information on WH Security's low temperature sensors, please call (763) 477-3664.

*Installing low temperature sensors is a great way to prevent freeze damage from occurring to your home or cabin.*



## Sign up for alarm alerts online

Sign up to receive free alarm activity alerts via email or text message.



Just go to [www.wh-security.com](http://www.wh-security.com), click on "My account," then "Receive alarm alerts" and fill out the online form.

## The difference between monitored and unmonitored smoke detectors

When it comes to your security system you may have encountered the challenge of figuring out what's beeping: your household smoke detectors or ones installed by WH Security. There are a few distinct differences between these two styles of smoke sensors – monitored and non-monitored – that can help you easily tell them apart.

The easiest way to tell the difference between the monitored smoke detectors that WH Security installs and non-monitored detectors is that

monitored smoke detectors have a red LED light. Another defining characteristic of a battery-powered monitored smoke detector is its double layer structure, where a smaller circular section is stacked on top of the circular base. This style of battery-operated alarm smoke detector also has an audible alarm built into it for notification purposes. A high decibel alert will activate when the device detects smoke. This type of device will

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