



GUARDIAN SECURITY SYSTEMS

Alaska owned and operated since 1974

Anchorage
274-5275
Mat-Su Valley:
376-4700
Kenai Peninsula:
283-5652
Fairbanks:
459-5275
Statewide:
1-800-478-1898

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Update Policy:

Changes must be made in writing. A telephone followup to verify your identify with your passcode must occur *before* changes take effect.

Plan accordingly for contact list updates, or your personal contact information.

Changes can be made via mail, email, the website, or at the main office in Anchorage.

Expect a phone call verification of these changes.

It's our policy to protect your account at all times.

Update online at <https://www.guardiansecuritysystems.com/support/update-emergency-contact-list/>

Why do We Stuff Stockings?

This is yet another tradition that goes back to the original Saint Nicholas, a man named Sinter Klaus who was later the basis for Santa Claus.

Sinter Klaus had a friend whose wife died, leaving him with three adolescent daughters to raise by himself.

The man had been successful and secure, and then a series of bad investments left the family in poverty.

This was devastating for the following reason: at the time, it was illegal for a young woman to be married unless her family was able to offer a dowry, something the poverty-stricken widower was not able to do. He couldn't scrape up a dowry for one daughter, let alone three.

Women who were unable to marry were often forced into a particularly distasteful

form of slavery, and the man was devastated that such seemed to be the fate for his beloved daughters.

When Sinter Klaus heard of the widower's predicament, he took action. Under cover of night, he dropped three bags of gold down the widower's chimney, providing a dowry for each young woman. One bag accidentally landed in a stocking that was hanging by the fire to dry.



Because of Sinter Klaus's generosity, the girls were able to marry well, and supported their father for the rest of his days. And thus began the tradition of leaving gifts in stockings at Christmas.

We here at Guardian hope you enjoy the season of giving and filling stockings!

Please! Test Your System!

Guardian offers:

*local monitoring
by a local
company

*24/7 monitoring
of your home or
business

*free
training on all
system
components

*video
surveillance

*web-based home
automation

*free consultations

*access control

*patrol services

*burglar, fire,
temperature and
moisture alarms

*interactive
security

*alarm response
program

*more!

With your Guardian Security Sign prominently placed on your property, chances are you're deterring would-be intruders. In fact, chances are your home may never be broken into. However, there are different types of home security addressed with your alarm system, and protection from home invasion is only one of them.

Another component that becomes more important in the winter for Alaskans is environmental alarm monitoring. An environmental alarm is set to notify homeowners when the presence of cold or moisture is detected. This fall we have already experienced freezing and thawing, which puts our basements and crawl spaces at risk of water damage.

Or, consider this: a busy family was hurrying to church on a Sunday morning. In the upstairs bathroom, their seven-year-old son left the toilet lid up and dashed to the minivan. As it happened, the lid caught the handle, causing the toilet to keep running after it was flushed. The toilet overflowed, first in the bathroom, then into the hall, and then, because they went out to dinner after church and took in a matinee, poured through the ceiling to the ground floor. The family moved to a hotel and ate fast food for three months while their home was repaired. Sure, insurance covered some of it, but an ounce of prevention goes a long way.



Because water can cause a lot of expensive trouble, we at Guardian recommend environmental sensors be placed at key points in your home—bathrooms, laundry room, basement and crawl space, anywhere water would be a concern. Guardian offers affordable home options as well as sensors for commercial spaces, and even sensors that can be placed under carpet.

As far as temperature, Guardian offers temperature alerts that will send a signal to the Central Station when parameters are reached. These are valuable for animal buildings, computer rooms, and unoccupied residences such as vacation homes, or when a customer plans to be on vacation. Anyone who has dealt with the hassle and expense of burst pipes can attest that a freeze alarm is well worth the few minutes it takes to install. If the power happens to go out while you're away from a home, an alert will aid you in quickly handling the problem before it becomes a major issue.

Once an adequate amount of sensors are in place in your home, it is very important that they be tested to ensure they are working properly. As you may know, Guardian recommends a monthly test of the entire system (every window, every door), in which the system is purposely sent into alarm to verify the Central Station receives the signal. Hopefully this is part of every customer's routine, but if not, consider at least testing environmental alarms to verify that they are working properly.

Again, testing your system through Central Monitoring is recommended monthly, and considered imperative before you leave on a trip. There are step-by-step instructions for how to do this on the website (<http://www.guardiansecuritysys.com/support/testing-your-system/>) and questions can be answered by calling Guardian any time.

Jellied Cranberries

Cranberries are loaded with Vitamin C and antioxidants. High in polyphenols, cranberries not only taste great but deliver heart-healthy benefits as well. If you're tired of the can, give this easy recipe a try.

Ingredients:

- 2 bags (12 oz each) fresh cranberries
- 1 1/3 cups water or cranberry juice
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 box dry pectin (low-sugar works best)

Instructions:

1. Heat water to boiling. Add cranberries; cook over medium heat until half of the berries have popped and are mushy.
2. Mash and strain berries. Or, blend in a mixer and strain.
3. Return strained cooked berries to pot and heat until boiling. Add sugar and pectin and cook at a rolling boil for 1 minute.
4. Pour mixture into bowl or mold and refrigerate until set.



DIY Security Options: Not so Simple



Americans love do it yourself projects. If we can do it better or cheaper ourselves, chances are we will. And, the DIY mindset has come to the security industry, with many companies and big box stores selling a la carte system components: control panel, cameras, window and door detectors, and smart phone connectivity. It works for many people, and in recognizing that, Guardian Security has offered a partnership between us and the customer with the Ultrasync panel. We value customer security, and work with our customers

to ensure a product choice and installation that truly does the job; not buying too much for the requirements of the space, nor too little, as well as providing monitoring.

However, there are products out there for which the old adage holds true, that you get what you pay for. If the product is amazingly cheap, there is usually a reason why. One DIY alarm company, has recently been found to have such flimsy security that its system can be hacked and disarmed by any knowledgeable programmer from a distance of 200 yards. Further, due to unencrypted signals between sensors and devices on home alarms, several alarm brands have been disarmed with copycat materials costing less than \$50 and a few lines of code. One alarm was disarmed from 5,000 miles away (<http://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2016/02/17/simplisafe-alarm-attacks/#5e3e8dee79a3>).

What this means for Guardian customers is that while Guardian may not always beat a national company's price per unit for a device, we are always happy to take competitive bids. We appreciate your business, and we believe working with a local company is worth it for our customers as well. If it's cold outside, we know it too, and especially through winter, environmental alarms save customers thousands of dollars in damage. Guardian has been run by the same person since the business opened in 1974. Our employees are as local as each of our customers, adding a layer of accountability to each aspect of the business relationship: sales, installation, service and monitoring. If you have time, [read this article](#) about a family whose passports were stolen when subcontractors arrived to install a system. Supporting local economy and receiving real-time monitoring of your home cannot be beaten. With Guardian, you get what you pay for: excellence.



Around Alaska

Colony Christmas, Palmer. December 9-11, various times. Parade of Lights, Cookie Contest, Gingerbread Contest, Triathlon race and more! Enjoy the season with activities for the whole family. Visit www.palmerchamber.org for more information.

Luminary Ski, Kenai, December 31, free. Meet at the Divide Ski Trails (Mile 12 of Seward Highway) for a New Year's Eve ski and campfire. Bring your headlamp to enjoy this candlelit ski! Visit www.alaska.org for more information.

Christmas Towne, Anchorage, Dec 1-18, Thurs-Sun 10a-6p. Hot chocolate, cookies, Christmas music, free books, and craft time with Santa and Mrs. Claus. \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. See www.christmastownealaska.com for more information.

Sing-It-Yourself Messiah, Fairbanks, December 10, 6:00p, free. Join the Fairbanks Society for a rendition of Handel's Messiah that includes you!. Visit www.fairbanksfirstpres.com for more.