



# Arvin Home Systems

Hello Everybody!

In the last newsletter we told you about our bold forays onto the internet with our brand new website. We will continue to update it so don't hesitate to check back and tell us what you think!

In this newsletter we want to teach you about a part of your alarm system that you almost never think about. It quietly works in the background without much maintenance at all. It's your back-up battery!

## What is the back-up battery for?

-It has one purpose and one purpose only; to keep your alarm system running if and when the power to your house goes out.

## Where is it?

-Its sitting in the alarm panel. The alarm panel is a tan colored box and is probably mounted to the wall in a closet somewhere.

## What does the battery look like?

- It's black and relatively large for a battery; about 4" tall and 3" deep.

## Is it dangerous?

-Not at all. The voltage from it is slightly more than a 9-volt battery.

## Why is it so heavy?

-It's a 'sealed lead/acid' battery. The lead makes it heavy.

## Why that type of battery?

-For a couple of reasons; it has a relatively long life, it is the most appropriate for this type of application and it is inexpensive.

## Do I need to recharge it?

-No. Every few minutes the alarm panel reads the voltage from the battery to make sure it is staying charged. If it isn't, then the panel will charge the battery. Once the battery will no longer keep its charge then it's time to replace it.

## How often should I replace my alarm battery?

-Anywhere from 3 to 6 years. We've seen batteries that needed replacing after only two years and some that have lasted up to 8 years. It depends how much work it is called upon to do.

## How will I know when its time to replace it?

-Your alarm keypad should tell you when the battery's life is almost up. It knows when the battery can no longer hold a charge. HOWEVER, if you haven't replaced your battery in 8 years, its probably time to do so!

## How long will it keep my alarm system running if the power goes out?

-Anywhere from 24 to 48 hours depending on the size of your system. The more keypads, motion detectors, sirens, etc, the quicker the battery will deplete.

## How much does a new one cost?

-We sell them for \$27.00 (tax included). Radio Shack sells them for a bit more than that. Some of you have a slightly bigger battery because of the size of your alarm system. Those bigger batteries are \$32.42 (tax included).

## What do I do with my old battery?

-Don't throw it in the garbage! Bring it to us and we'll take it to the recycling center.



Don't forget, you are responsible for maintaining your alarm system.

We are here to repair any problems, but we must rely on you to let us know when they happen!

We want to make sure that you're getting what you're paying for

-communication between your alarm system and our monitoring company!

Visit our website! [www.arvinhomesystems.com](http://www.arvinhomesystems.com)