



OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS: *Electric Bear Deterrent Systems*

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Introduction

Congratulations on purchasing the best electric bear deterrent system money can buy! Your family, your neighbors, and the bears thank you for making such a wise investment. This document is designed to provide an overview of our systems and teach you how to operate them safely and effectively.

Each system is custom-built based on your home and your needs. Accordingly, it's very important that you read the safety information below and familiarize yourself with each component before operating your system. We've included a Troubleshooting section at the end of this document to address the most common issues we run into.

Please visit our website at www.tahoebearbusters.com for FAQs, detailed product descriptions, contact information, and more. Thank you for choosing Bear Busters.

Important Information



READ THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT BEFORE OPERATING SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.



AVOID TOUCHING BUNGEEES OR WIRES WHILE SYSTEM IS ARMED.



AVOID STEPPING ON DOORMATS WHILE SYSTEM IS ARMED.



KEEP CHILDREN AND PETS SAFE AND SECURE WHILE SYSTEM IS ARMED.



DO NOT REMOVE ANY YELLOW WARNING SIGNS.



DO NOT CROSS BUNGEEES OR WIRES. THEY MUST BE PARALLEL TO EACH OTHER.



KEEP CONDUCTIVE/METAL OBJECTS AWAY FROM BUNGEEES, WIRES, AND DOORMATS.



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TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF A BEAR BREAK-IN, ALWAYS ARM YOUR SYSTEM WHEN YOU'RE AWAY.



STORE UNUSED BUNGEEES/WIRES NEARBY SO YOU DON'T MISPLACE THEM.

Getting to Know Your System



Controller

All of our systems come with a controller. It's a small device about the size of a sprinkler box. They're typically installed on the exterior of your home near your front door and visible to emergency personnel but sometimes are installed inside your garage with a secondary switch out by your front door. Slide the switch left to turn your system OFF and right to turn it ON. A blinking green light indicates your system is armed and functioning properly.



Red Light Switch

Red light switches override the controller, making it possible to arm/disarm your system from multiple locations around your home with the flip of a switch. They're typically installed on your home's interior, exterior, or both. If the red light is illuminated, your system is ON. Flip the switch in the opposite direction to turn your system OFF.



Cut-Out Switch

Cut-out switches are typically installed as a secondary switch to the controller. They are mostly located by your front door. Sometimes we install them to just isolate a single door so you can let a pet out at night. Flip the lever to the OFF (vertical) position to partially disarm your system. Flip the lever to the ON (horizontal) position to partially arm your system. These switches are accompanied with a RED blinking light. The light will blink when ON.



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Interior & Exterior Switches

By pressing the ON or OFF button on either the Exterior or Interior switch the system will turn On or OFF. There is a RED blinking light at the front door that will blink only when the system is on and operating correctly.



Bungee Cords

Bungees are used to protect doors, decks, crawl spaces, and more. The metal hooks on the ends of each bungee are designed to latch onto the metal loops around your door. Removing the bungees is as simple as detaching the hooks from the loops. Bungees should always be parallel. DO NOT cross the bungees.



Removable Window Wires

Some wires are removable with springs. They are used for windows with shutters or that swing out. Removing them is as simple as detaching the hooks from the metal loops around your window. Wires should always be parallel. Do not cross the wires. If your window swings out, never open the window more than 6 inches while the wires are attached.



Bear Mats

Electric mats are installed as a discrete alternative to bungees. While your system is disarmed, we recommend covering electric doormats with a household mat to prevent damage. While the system is armed, it's okay to walk on your Bear Mat as long as you're wearing rubber-soled shoes. Disconnect the wires at the edge of the Bear Mat before repositioning. Never place your household mat on top of the Bear Mat while the system is ON. To disconnect the mat from the system simply use a screwdriver to loosen the set screw on the metal lug where the black insulated wire attaches to the mat. Then pull the black wire out of the metal lug.



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Disarming Your System (OFF)

IMPORTANT: Keep children and pets safe and secure until your system is completely disarmed.

1. Disarm your system. This step varies a little depending on the power switches we installed.
 - a. If you have a controller only, slide the controller to the OFF (left) position to disarm the system. The blinking green light should disappear.
 - b. If you have a controller + red light switches, flip any red light switch to the OFF (dark) position to disarm the system.
 - c. If you have a controller + cut-out switch, ONLY 1 of the 2 switches needs to be turned OFF for the entire system to be disarmed. BOTH switches need to be in the ON position to arm the system. Once your system is completely disarmed, unhook the bungees at each door.
 - d. If you have the exterior + interior switches, Pressing the OFF button on EITHER switch will turn the entire system OFF and the red blinking light outside by the exterior switch will also go OFF.
2. If you have a Bear Mat, cover it with a household mat to prevent damage to the equipment.
3. If you have removable window wires and plan on opening your windows more than 6 inches, unhook them. The springs won't allow the wire to stretch more than that.

Arming Your System (ON)

IMPORTANT: Always check to ensure your system is disarmed before handling and components.

1. If you have removable window wires, reattach them, making sure they're horizontal to the ground and parallel to each other. Do not cross the wires.
2. If you have a Bear Mat, remove the household mat and make sure the Bear Mat is free of debris.
3. Reattach the bungees at each door, making sure they're horizontal to the ground and parallel to each other. DO NOT cross the bungees.
4. Arm your system. This step varies a little depending on the power switches we installed.
 - a. If you have a controller only, slide the controller to the ON (right) position to arm the system. Several blinking lights should appear and transition to a single blinking green light after a few seconds.
 - b. If you have a controller + red light switches, flip any red light switch to the ON (illuminated) position to arm the system.



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- c. If you have a controller + cut-out switch, Turn on the switch that you disarmed upon arrival. Both the controller + cut-out switch have to be ON to arm the system. There is a RED blinking light outside by the cut-out switch make sure that is blinking. On the controller the single green light should be blinking as well.
- d. If you have the exterior and interior switches. Push the ON button on either switch and the entire system will go ON. The RED blinking light by the exterior switch will blink if the system is ON and fully functioning.



Troubleshooting

I touched my system while it was on and didn't feel a shock.

Our systems use alternating “hot” and “ground” conductive elements. You probably only made contact with one of them. In order to receive the full electrical shock, bears, or any living thing for that matter, must make contact with a hot and a ground element at the same time. We don't recommend touching an armed system to test that it's working properly.

I hear a snapping sound coming from my system.

That sound you're hearing is caused by electricity “jumping” or “arcing” out of your system. Most likely something conductive (e.g., metal, rock, water) is too close to the system. With the system armed, follow the sound until you determine what is making contact with the system. Disarm the system, try and resolve the issue, and arm the system again to see if it worked. Repeat until the sound goes away.

Crossed bungees/wires are another common cause of the snapping sound. Make sure none of the bungees/wires are crossed over each other.

My controller is displaying a red blinking light or multiple blinking lights.

The controller is warning you that something is interrupting the flow of electricity through your system. Disarm the system and check all the bungees and wires to ensure everything is attached correctly and nothing conductive is making contact with your system.

My controller is displaying no lights at all.

Most likely the controller isn't receiving power. First, follow the power cord from the base of the controller to the electrical outlet and make sure it's plugged in. Next confirm that the GFCI hasn't been tripped. If it has, press the RESET button. If not, check your breaker panel to see if a breaker has been tripped.

If you have any red light switches, it's very likely that one of the switches is flipped to the OFF (dark) position. Make sure that all red light switches are ON and illuminated red.

I touched my system while it was off and still felt a shock.

Most likely the system is still powered ON. Go back and check your switch. Static electricity can also be the cause, as it is often mistaken for a full electrical shock from our systems.



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What is an electrical short on my system

These systems work with an alternating current. One being a positive and the other being a negative. An electrical short is created when these two wires make contact with each other. Either by physically touching each other or a metal object that bridges the 2 wires. A short circuit acts similar to a leak in a water pipe. The larger the leak then the less water you are getting to come out of your faucet. The larger the short the less voltage we have on the system.

How do i know the system has a short circuit

The blinking lights on your system will tell you if there is a short on the system. Please go back and review the operating instructions on pages 4 & 5 to review how the blinking lights work on your specific system.

Can a short cause a fire

No electrical fence systems were designed to work outside in all weather conditions and around dry brush on farms and ranches. In electricity it is the amperage that creates heat, burns and starts fires. Your household power outlets are 15-20 amps and a constant current. These systems put out 60 milli amps or 60 thousandths of an amp at a pulsating current. Even though a short can create an arc of electricity it is never creating any heat due to low amperage and a pulsating current.

Does a broken wire cause a short

Not always. If the broken wire is touching a wire of the opposite current or the broken wire is touching a metal object on the home then a short is created. If the broken wire is not touching anything else then a short is not created.

What does snow do to the system

Snow building up or touching the wires or mat does not cause a short on the system. Snow falling off a roof can break the wires. If that broken wire is creating a short then your whole system is not operating correctly. Snow can push down wires making the opposite current wires touch again causing the system to not operate correctly. It may also push the wires into a metal object such as a window or door screen again causing the system to not operate properly. If the snow is not causing the wires to do one of those things then the system will be operating correctly.



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If a wire breaks will the rest of the system still operate

If the broken wire causes a short then nothing else on the system will operate. If the broken wire does not cause a short then the rest of the system may still be operating. Sometimes the electricity comes to one side of the window, carries through the window wires, then leaves on the opposite side of the window to another area of the home. In this scenario power will not get some areas of the home. Some windows act as a dead end, meaning power does not carry past the window and all other areas of the home will still have electricity.

How do I know if the electricity carries through a window or door to another area of my home

Look closely at both sides of the door or window. At least one side you will see black insulated wires about the thickness of a pencil. These are the wires that bring the electricity to a door or window. If you only see the wires on one side of the door or window then it means this area is a dead end on the system and does not affect anywhere else from getting electricity. If you see the black insulated wire on both sides of the door or window then this means power carries through the wires to at least one other area of the home.

Do I have to hook the bungees up on my door to get electricity to other areas of my home

If there is black insulated wires on both sides of the door then yes you do. If there is only wire on one side of the door then you do not.