

SAFETY SENSE

Home Security: Tips and Trends

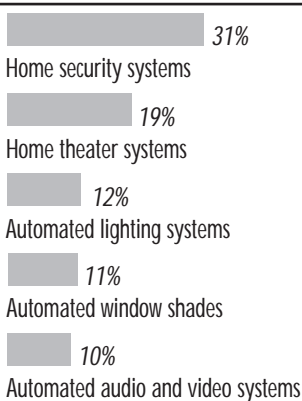
(NAPSA)—An increasing number of American families may soon be enjoying the peace of mind that comes with greater home security—along with other ease-of-living benefits—thanks to the rapid rise in the installation of electronic home networking systems in new and existing homes.

According to a recent national survey, 83 percent of those responding say that they would be interested in installing some type of custom electronic system in their homes; 86 percent said they would seek the help of a qualified and certified technician to install such a system. Small wonder that 34 percent of builders now offer structured wiring packages as standard or optional amenities, reports the National Association of Home Builders.

Survey results released by the Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association (CEDIA) confirm that home networking is top-of-mind among most Americans. Systems ranked as follows:

- Home security systems—31 percent
- Home theater systems—19 percent
- Automated lighting systems—12 percent
- Automated window shades—11 percent
- Automated audio and video systems—10 percent

“These survey results confirm what our member companies have been telling us for some time. Home networking is becoming more important to the consumer and is a trend that will continue to grow as more and more home-



A centralized home security system rates highest in importance among consumers considering home networking systems.

owners recognize the safety, comfort, convenience and energy savings a networked home can bring,” says Billilynne Keller, CEDIA executive director. “Even more important, these survey results demonstrate that our goal of educating and certifying custom electronic designers and installers is as important to our membership as it is to the consumer.”

Home security was equally important to female respondents as male respondents, whereas home theaters were more important to male respondents than female respondents. Female respondents are more likely to favor automated lighting systems throughout the home.

To find out more about custom electronic home networking systems, go to www.cedia.org; or call 1-800-669-5329.