



How do people who have a hearing loss know someone is at the door?



Clearly, a standard doorbell may not function effectively when in the home of a person with a hearing loss. However, there are a variety of products available for people to use in the place of traditional doorbells. These products use light and vibration - and loud sounds for those who are not entirely deaf - in helping to alert a person with a hearing loss that someone is at the door.

WHERE TO FIND EQUIPMENT:

Door bells with a variety of options can be purchased through companies such as Harris Communications, MaxiAids or Hear-More. You can type in a search for doorbells for deaf and hard of hearing and several choices will come up.

Harris Communications

15155 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

Voice: 800-825-6758

TTY: 800-825-9187

VP: 952-388-2152

Website:

www.harriscomm.com/

Maxi-Aids, Inc.

42 Executive Blvd.,
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Voice: 800-522-6294

TTY: 800-281-3555

Website:

www.maxiaids.com

Hear-More

42 Executive Blvd.
Farmingdale, NY 11735

Voice: 800-881-4327

TTY: 800-281-3555

VP: 631-752-1145

Website:

www.hearmore.com

Doorbells for those who can't hear well

Light Doorbells

Light doorbells, or visual alerting devices, use light to alert a person that someone is at the door. These doorbells range from a single light connected to the doorbell to a more elaborate system that flashes all the lights in the house. These doorbells are either activated by a doorbell button or a door knock alert system.

With a door knock alert system, when someone knocks on the door a vibration sensor unit detects the vibration caused by the knocking and thus signals a bright light to flash. The vibration sensor is usually adjustable on a door knock alert system, so the level of vibration that triggers the alert is determined by the person using it.

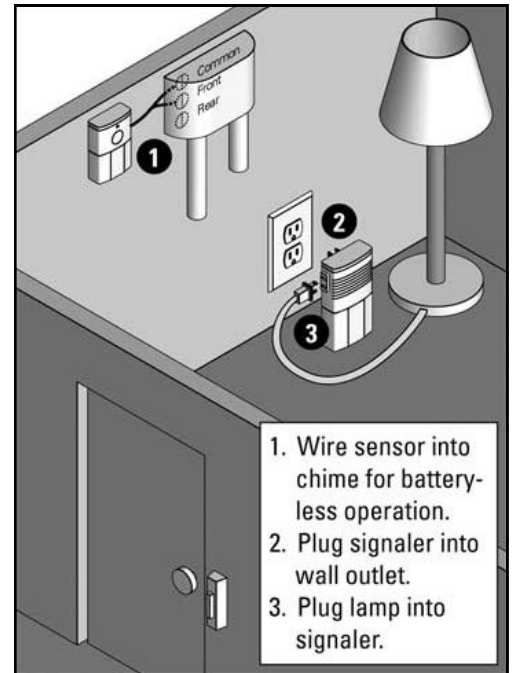
Radio Doorbells

For someone who is not entirely deaf but can't hear a regular doorbell, a radio doorbell might be the answer. Radio doorbells send out signals that trigger speakers throughout the house or apartment. These speakers then make a loud noise to alert the person that someone is at the door. Like Light doorbells and door knock alert systems doorbells, radio doorbells are generally wireless devices. They are also probably the most affordable option of deaf-oriented doorbell.



Modified Traditional Doorbell

If you'd prefer not to purchase a completely new doorbell system, there are companies that make devices that will work with existing doorbells. Many of these require rewiring. When dealing with installing a new doorbell system or altering an existing one, it's always a good idea to contact a certified electrician to help with the project. On top of being a safe option, electricians can often offer expert advice that will make the process simpler, faster and potentially less damaging to the infrastructure.



Halloween Safety Tips

- Try to trick-or-treat when it is still light outside.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk and can be seen after dark.
- If possible, wear make-up instead of a mask. If you wear a mask, take it off when crossing streets.
- Have a responsible adult go trick-or-treating with you or go in a group.
- Plan your trick-or-treat route ahead of time. Pick well-lit streets and let someone know where you are going and when you should return home.
- Carry a flashlight and use reflective tape on your costume so that people driving cars can see you.
- Cross only at corners. Never cross between parked cars or in the middle of a busy block.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk facing oncoming traffic to make sure you can see the cars.
- Do not eat your candy until you get home and is checked to be safe.
- Never enter the home of a stranger.

Service Dogs

Some deaf people have a service dog to help them. The dog would come to the person then go to the door to indicate that someone was at the door.

