

A person with Alzheimer's disease may not be aware of his/her surroundings and can easily wander into dangerous areas inside and outside the home. To discourage your loved one from wandering off, consider using door and window alarms, door murals, or body alarms.

15. Wandering Prevention

NO-START CAR BATTERY SWITCH



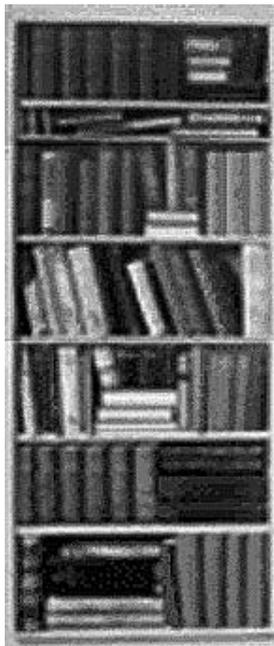
by The Alzheimer's Store
\$35–\$40

Convincing a loved one with Alzheimer's disease that it is unsafe to drive is often a challenging task. Here's an easy-to-install device that attaches to the car battery and allows the caregiver to disable the car with the turn of a knob.

The "No Start" Car Disconnect Switch attaches to your car battery. The car's battery cable then attaches to the device. To disable your car, turn the knob. To start the car again, just turn it the other way. The "No Start" Car Disconnect Switch is fused so the vehicle will not lose its clock, radio, and computer settings.

Available from The Alzheimer's Store.

DOOR MURALS



Book Shelves



Pantry Shelves

by The Alzheimer's Store
\$35-\$40

Closets storing dangerous items or doors leading to stairways are very dangerous for those in the middle and late stages of Alzheimer's Disease. One way of denying access is to make the door "disappear." A common technique used in the design of Alzheimer's care facilities is to camouflage dangerous doorways. These photographic murals can be applied to a door to make it look like a set of shelves. Suddenly there is no "door" to tempt your loved one. Each mural comes in two pieces for easy application.

Available from The Alzheimer's Store.

DOOR AND WINDOW ALARMS



Basic Door and Window Alarm by The Alzheimer's Store **\$10–\$15**

This alarm has a special insert that fits into the space between the door and the doorjamb or window and adjacent wall. If the door or window is opened the alarm sounds.

Available from The Alzheimer's Store and other stores.



Door Monitor with Remote Plug-In Alarm and Light Flasher by The Alzheimer's Store **\$55–\$65**

This alarm guards a door or window, sounds an alarm, and flashes a lamp elsewhere, such as in the caregiver's bedroom. When a monitored door is opened, the transmitter sends a signal to the receiver/alarm plugged into any standard outlet. The signal triggers an alarm and flashes a lamp plugged into the unit.

Available from The Alzheimer's Store.



Door Alarm and Entry Chime

by Radio Shack

\$25–\$30

This alarm alerts the caregiver with chime or alarm when the protected door is opened. A three-digit security code arms and disarms the system.

- An entry/exit delay prevents the alarm from triggering as you enter or leave your home
- A “panic” button on the remote unit can be used to instantly sound the alarm

Available at Radio Shack.



Wireless Entrance Alarm Chime

by Radio Shack

\$35–\$40

This chime allows the caregiver to monitor a door so they know when someone enters or leaves. The transmitter has a range of 150 feet. The alarm chime can be set for up to six different sounds to distinguish between various doors.

Available at Radio Shack.



Wireless Motion Detector

by Radio Shack

\$55–\$60

This motion detector can be set to sense motion in a designated area. It then sends a signal that can activate either an alarm sound or a chime sound. The alarm can be deactivated at the keypad or with a remote unit. Remote unit also has a panic button to manually sound an alarm.

Available at Radio Shack.



Keypad Wireless Door/Window Alarm

by Intermatic

\$15–\$20

This wireless door or window alarm alerts a caregiver when a window or door is opened. A magnetic module trips the alarm when the contacts separate. A code entered on a keypad activates/deactivates the alarm.

Available at Lowe's and other stores.



Wireless Alarm with Motion Sensor

by Intermatic

\$20–\$25

This wireless alarm is activated when it senses movement. No cables or wires are needed for this installation. A programmable remote controls the alarm from a distance.

Available at Lowe's and other stores.



Plug-In Entry Alert Chime

by Heath Zenith

\$25–\$30

This chime alert sounds when the monitored door is opened. The door-mounted transmitter is battery operated through the receiver plug-in. The transmitter has 100 feet of operating range.

Available at Lowe's and other stores.



Door Stop Alarm

by MaxiAids

\$8–\$10

This door stop alarm can be used behind any door to notify a caregiver if their loved one tries to leave a room. When the door is opened a loud, shrill, pulsating alarm will sound. The door stop is 7" long, easy to use, and uses a 9-volt battery.

Available from MaxiAids.



Door Guard Vibration Activated Door Alarm/Chime

by Telko

\$9–\$10

This door alarm/chime provides an early alert when the protected doorknob is turned.

- Vibration to the doorknob activates an alarm siren
- Alarm activation delay allows for silent alarm set up
- Chime function allows door traffic to be monitored
- No tools required for installation

Available at The Home Depot and other stores.

SAFE RETURN



by The Alzheimer's Association
\$40.00 registration fee

Safe Return is a national, government-funded program of the Alzheimer's Association that assists in the identification and safe, timely return of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias who wander from home and become lost.

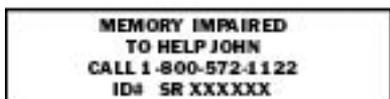
People with Alzheimer's disease are prone to wander. Wandering can happen anytime or anyplace and can be life-threatening for the individual.

The Safe Return Program helps reunite families by working with trained community members like law enforcement officials, emergency medical technicians, and transit operators. The program includes

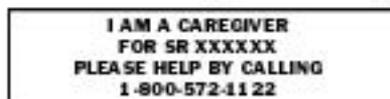
- Identification products, including wallet cards, jewelry, clothing labels, lapel pin, bag tags
- A national photo/information database



Back of Registrant Jewelry



Back of Caregiver Jewelry



- A 24-hour toll-free emergency crisis line

If the registrant wanders and is found, the person who finds him/her can call the Safe Return toll-free number located on the wanderer's identification wallet card, jewelry, or clothing labels. The Safe Return telephone operator immediately alerts the family members or caregiver listed in the database, so they can be reunited with their loved one.

If a person is reported missing by a family member or caregiver, Safe Return can fax local law enforcement agencies the missing person's information and photograph. Local Alzheimer's Association chapters provide family support.

For an additional \$5, caregivers can also order an ID bracelet. In an emergency, it alerts others that the wearer provides care for a person registered in Safe Return.

Available from The Alzheimer's Association.

SAFETY DOOR LOCK



Solid Brass Surface Bolt by Modern **\$4–\$10**

This surface bolt can be used on interior and exterior doors to prevent a person with memory loss from wandering outside or accessing dangerous areas of the house, such as stairs and basements. The bolt can be attached to the top of any door and easily slides back and forth to lock and unlock the door.

Available at The Home Depot and other stores.

STAIR GATES

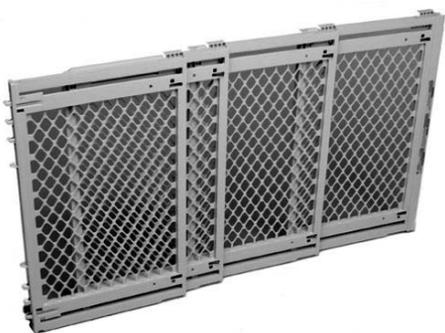


Walk-Through Stair Gate by Evenflo **\$30–\$35**

This stair gate easily unlocks and swings open. It can be removed from its low-profile mounting hardware when not in use.

- 28 inches tall, fits openings from 27–42 inches wide
- Also perfect for doorways

Available at Burlington Coat Factory and other stores.



Extra-Wide Supergate

by North States

\$35–\$40

This gate fits openings from 22 to 62 inches and is an extra-tall 31 inches. It slides together, swings out of the way when not in use, and it can be removed from the mounting brackets so storage is made even easier. It has easy one-handed operation.

Available at Target and other stores.