

## **Eavesdropping Detection**

### **WHAT CAN THE AVERAGE PERSON DO TO DISCOVER TAPS?**

**FIRST** - Don't buy that wiretap locator gadget from the mail-order catalog. It's not effective. Don't call the experts to check your phone lines. Not yet. If you are the average person. If you're not involved in industrial espionage or government intrigue. If you suspect an acquaintance, neighbor, or even a family member of being the culprit. You stand a good chance of discovering the eavesdropping device yourself. Basic wiretaps are just that - attachments to the telephone wires.

**Be a Spy Buster:** Most amateur taps can be found just by looking at the wiring. There is no need to touch. In fact, you should never touch or tamper with unfamiliar wiring, or wiring which does not belong to you.

**Know What You Are Looking At:** Household telephone wiring generally contains four pieces of wire in one cable. The cable is usually round. The inner pieces of wire are colored: red, green, yellow and black. The red and green wires carry your calls. The yellow and black wires may be used in several other ways, or not used at all. You will not normally see the yellow and black wires attached to the red and green wires (a possible sign of a wiretap). Try to visually inspect every foot of this wiring.

**Know What You Are Looking For:** Look for attachments to the wiring - either at protector blocks or spliced into the cable. Attachments include: cassette tape recorders, electronic parts on a small boards, small boxes and different looking wiring leading to other areas. You might even find evidence (stripped or damaged cable) of a wiretap which has been removed.

Go on-line to **Ebay** and search "listening devices" and "hidden cameras" to see what many of these look like. Pay particular attention to items like: cassette tape recorders, telephone / tape recorder interface units, phone accounting systems, hidden cameras, IP cameras, wireless mic's, telephone amplifiers, etc. Other electronic items which the amateur eavesdroppers will commandeer for use as room bugging devices are also depicted in these catalogs.

**What If?** If you find anything that arouses your suspicions, don't touch it. Photograph your find immediately. Do not confront your suspect. Contact your local telephone company, lawyer or law enforcement agency for further assistance.

If you don't find anything, it does not automatically mean that you are wiretap free. A previous tap could have been removed before your search, or the tap may be well hidden. If your line is clean it is possible that your conversations are getting out in other ways (room bugs, "friends," or a wiretap at the other end of your phone calls).