

A Beginner's Guide to Smart Home Technology

In the last few years, smart homes have gone from being filled with clever gadgets to entire ecosystems of connected IoT technology, enabling homeowners to run their homes more efficiently and safely, as well as helping them save money and promote sustainability. Here are some ways that smart homes are changing the way we live:



Lighting Control
Technology can now help us to deal with our bad habits of forgetting to turn lights off. Smart lighting allows us to do this remotely or automatically when they sense they aren't needed, helping cut electricity bills and reducing our carbon footprint.

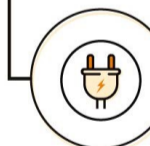


Entertainment

Smart home speakers and video streaming devices are revolutionizing how we enjoy music, TV and films at home. Often, these devices are voice-activated, allowing you to play your favorite song or stream a Netflix episode simply by speaking to the unit.



Doorbells
The smart doorbell is an important safety component of the connected household, livestreaming video from your doorstep, allowing conversations with callers and acting as a motion sensor. It can also be paired with keyless entry for a flexible approach to security.



Energy Management
Smart meters and thermostats are replacing traditional meters in the home in many countries. These can link up to connected devices, allowing users to see in real time how much they are spending on electricity (and gas, if they have it).

Hub

The beating heart of any smart home, the hub, helps homeowners to manage other compatible devices connected to the ecosystem – even kitchen appliances. While smart gadgets will often have their own apps, the hub allows homeowners to control all these devices in one place.



Security and monitoring systems

Smart cameras are discreet, straightforward and intuitive. Devices across the range can offer infrared filming for night-time capabilities, two-way audio and even facial recognition.