

FREE PLANNING GUIDE

The Smart Home Planning Guide

A room-by-room framework for planning a smart home upgrade that actually fits how you live — without overspending on gadgets you'll never use.

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Start With Your Routine, Not the Gadget Aisle

Most smart home projects fail the same way: someone buys a smart plug, a video doorbell, and a hub that don't talk to each other, and six months later half of it is unplugged. This guide flips the order — plan the outcome first, then pick the tech that gets you there.

Step 1 — Map your daily routine. Write down the 5 moments in your day where a smart home upgrade would actually save time or worry: leaving for work, coming home after dark, checking on the house while traveling, managing the thermostat, or letting someone in.

Step 2 — Pick ONE room to start. Don't automate the whole house at once. Start with the room or system that matches your top routine moment — usually the entryway (locks + doorbell) or the living areas (lighting + climate).

Step 3 — Choose a hub ecosystem before buying devices. Everything you add should work inside one ecosystem (Apple Home, Google Home, Amazon Alexa, or a dedicated hub like SmartThings). Mixing ecosystems is the #1 cause of "smart home that stopped working."

Room-by-Room Priority Guide

Entryway & Security

- Smart lock (code or app-based entry, no more spare keys under the mat)
- Video doorbell (see who's there before you answer)
- Motion-activated exterior lighting

Living Areas

- Smart lighting on the rooms you use most — not the whole house
- Smart thermostat (biggest single energy-savings upgrade available)
- A single voice hub or smart speaker as the control point

Kitchen & Utility

- Leak sensors near the water heater, washer, and under sinks
- Smart plugs for small appliances you forget to turn off

Budget note: A solid one-room starter setup (lock + doorbell + 2-3 smart lights + hub) typically runs \$250-\$450 in equipment. Resist the urge to buy the whole-house bundle before you've lived with one room for a month.

The 3 Mistakes That Waste the Most Money

- **Buying incompatible ecosystems.** Check the box before you buy — "Works with Apple Home / Google Home / Alexa" isn't optional.
- **Automating rooms you rarely use.** Smart-home your living room and bedroom before your guest room.
- **Skipping professional install for wiring-dependent devices.** Smart switches and thermostats often need a neutral wire — verify before you buy, or you'll be returning it.

Want a plan built for your actual house?

We'll walk your home, map your routine, and hand you a room-by-room smart home plan with real product picks and a install-order sequence.

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