

The Smart Home Planning Guide

Pick the right ecosystem, map your rooms, and budget the rollout in three phases.

Step 1 — Choose your ecosystem

Ecosystem	Best for	Watch-out
Apple Home + Matter	Privacy-first, Apple households	Smaller device catalog
Google Home	Voice-first, Android households	Ad-tech data model
Amazon Alexa	Widest device compatibility, price	Amazon ecosystem lock-in
SmartThings (Samsung)	DIY tinkerers, Samsung appliances	Steeper setup learning curve

Step 2 — Map your rooms

- List every room and rank by daily use (kitchen/living room first, guest room last).
- For each room, note: lighting, climate, entry points, entertainment, and any appliance to connect.
- Flag rooms with no existing wiring — those need a wireless-first plan (battery sensors, mesh Wi-Fi).

Step 3 — Budget in 3 phases

- Phase 1 (Starter, ~25%): hub + mesh Wi-Fi + smart locks + 1 camera — the safety/foundation layer.
- Phase 2 (Comfort, ~35%): thermostat, room sensors, lighting in top 3 rooms.
- Phase 3 (Whole-Home, ~40%): remaining rooms, whole-home audio, automations and scenes.

Pre-install wiring & network checks

- Confirm router placement gives mesh coverage to every planned device zone.
- Check for neutral wire at switch locations if installing smart switches (not just plugs).
- Verify your internet plan has enough upload bandwidth for cameras + video doorbell.
- Label your breaker panel before any electrical work — saves the installer real time.

Ready to skip the guesswork?

Book a White-Glove Whole-Home Install consultation and we'll turn this plan into a scoped, scheduled install.