

Smart Home Basics: Your Getting Started Checklist

Assess Your Needs

- ☐ Identify which daily tasks you'd most like to simplify (lighting, temperature, security, reminders)
- ☐ Consider your primary concerns (energy savings, home security, convenience, accessibility)
- ☐ Determine your comfort level with new technology
- ☐ Set a realistic budget for starting your smart home journey

Choose Your Starting Point

Voice Assistants

- ☐ Research basic voice assistant options (Amazon Alexa, Google Home)
- ☐ Consider what you'd use it for most (weather, music, reminders, questions)
- ☐ Check if it's compatible with other devices you might add later

Smart Thermostats

- ☐ Review your current heating/cooling costs to understand potential savings
- ☐ Confirm your current thermostat type and compatibility
- ☐ Consider features like scheduling and remote control capabilities

Smart Lighting

- ☐ Identify rooms where smart lighting would be most helpful
- ☐ Decide between smart bulbs or smart switches
- ☐ Consider dimming capabilities and scheduling features

Smart Security

- ☐ Assess your current home security setup
- ☐ Consider smart door locks, doorbell cameras, or security cameras
- ☐ Think about whether you want professional monitoring or self-monitoring

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Before You Purchase

- ☐ Read reviews from other seniors or users with similar needs
- ☐ Verify the device works with your existing smartphone or tablet
- ☐ Check if professional installation is required or if it's DIY-friendly
- ☐ Confirm the device works with your home's internet connection
- ☐ Research the manufacturer's reputation for security and support

Getting Started

- ☐ Start with one device to get comfortable with smart home technology
- ☐ Ensure you have reliable Wi-Fi coverage where you'll install the device
- ☐ Download the manufacturer's app on your smartphone or tablet
- ☐ Create strong, unique passwords for any new accounts
- ☐ Register your device for warranty and support

Setting Up Successfully

- ☐ Follow the manufacturer's setup instructions step by step
- ☐ Test basic functions to ensure everything works properly
- ☐ Explore the device's features gradually, one at a time
- ☐ Set up any desired schedules or automation features
- ☐ Connect family members' phones if they need access

Staying Secure

- ☐ Keep device software updated when prompted
- ☐ Use strong, unique passwords for device accounts
- ☐ Enable two-factor authentication if available
- ☐ Regularly review which devices have access to your network
- ☐ Be cautious about sharing access with others

Expanding Your Smart Home

- ☐ Wait until you're comfortable with your first device before adding more
- ☐ Choose additional devices that work well together
- ☐ Consider how new devices will integrate with what you already have
- ☐ Prioritize devices that address your most important needs first

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Troubleshooting and Support

- ☐ Save customer support contact information in an easily accessible place
- ☐ Know how to restart or reset your devices if needed
- ☐ Keep device manuals and setup information organized
- ☐ Identify a tech-savvy family member or friend who can help if needed
- ☐ Join online communities or local groups for seniors using smart home technology

Long-term Success

- ☐ Regularly review and adjust device settings as your needs change
- ☐ Take advantage of new features as you become more comfortable
- ☐ Share your experience with friends who might benefit from smart home technology
- ☐ Stay informed about security updates and best practices
- ☐ Enjoy the convenience and peace of mind your smart home provides!

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