Before the Walls Close

A home technology checklist for new Colorado homes, sorted by the four deadlines in a build. Go through it with your builder, your electrician, and your technology team.

1. BEFORE FRAMING IS DONE

- ■ Shade pocket sizes from the shade supplier, given to the framer
- ■ Shade pockets framed at every window that will get a recessed shade
- ■ Blocking (extra wood in the wall) behind every wall screen
- ■ Blocking for any other heavy item on a wall or ceiling
- ■ Equipment spot chosen, with room, power, and fresh air
- ■ Walls that will hold a screen marked on the plan

2. BEFORE THE ELECTRICIAN ROUGHS IN

- ■ Speaker wire to every speaker spot, even ones filled later
- ■ Speaker spots checked against the furniture plan
- ■ Network drop (data cable) to every screen
- ■ Network drop to every desk
- ■ Network drop to every ceiling Wi-Fi access point spot
- ■ Network drop to every camera
- ■ Conduit (empty tube with pull string) to screens, projector, and equipment room
- ■ Camera wire to corners, driveway, doors, shop, and gate
- ■ Wire to every door that may get a smart lock, doorbell, or intercom
- ■ Wire to every gate
- ■ Power to every shade
- ■ Outdoor power: patio, pergola, fire pit, landscape lights, pool gear
- ■ Wire between buildings (garage, shop, guest house)
- ■ Power line just for the equipment
- ■ Deeper boxes at every keypad spot

3. BEFORE DRYWALL

- ■ Walk the house with builder and technology team
- ■ Photo of every wall, saved and labeled by room
- ■ Every cable labeled at both ends
- ■ Keypad box depth checked
- ■ Shade pocket sizes checked
- ■ Network drops sit where the furniture will really go
- ■ Conduit pull strings in place

4. AFTER YOU MOVE IN

- ■ Screens and projectors
- ■ Theater seats
- ■ Streaming boxes and shelf speakers
- ■ Smart doorbell
- ■ Anything that plugs into a wall

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