



SHINE BRIGHT

4 TIPS FOR HOME AUTOMATION NEWBIES

Home automation has finally caught up to the futuristic scenarios only dreamed of decades ago. Smart lights, security systems, appliances - they're all changing the way we interact with our homes and increasing our expectations for what a home can now do for us.

Smart home technology provides homeowners the convenience to adjust or control things with much less effort, either from a central device or remotely. Moreover, the smart characteristics of a home today both boost home energy efficiency as well as the over-all value of the home.

If you are eager to get started, but overwhelmed by the options, you can start with these four tips:

Decide If You Want a Hub

Hubs are the main point where all of your smart home features feed, allowing you to control things from one point. There are tons of new ones popping up, but the most popular seem to be Alexa™, Vera™ (formerly Mi Casa Verde), or SmartThings®. Each have their pros and limitations, so make sure that you do your due diligence before picking up a hub. Keep in mind that hubs are not required for many standalone systems, though, and may not be necessary.

Start With the Critical Points

A smart home can create a ton of "shiny object" features, but if you're totally new to home automation, begin with home security. Your home security system can be as robust as you like, which is why it makes a logical starting point. Companies like Uxari® or SimpliSafe® have monitoring abilities that allow you to have watchdog features and instant notifications. If, however, you're looking for something simpler, you can put together your own security system with Amazon® or SmartHome® and upgrade later.

Don't Jump In Right Away

Creating a smart home can become a monumental task that depletes your time AND your budget, so don't feel like you need to have everything installed and ready to go on Day 1. Don't jump into the allure of having lights that auto-dim if you have no experience with electrical work. Start small by adding one feature, and once you get the hang of it, add a little more. Remember that your home is an investment of both time and equity, so go slowly and keep yourself accountable to a budget.

Ask for Help

If you're feeling totally overwhelmed, there are a lot of online support communities out there that are ready and willing to help you get started. And don't forget the helpful staff where you purchase your materials.

If you want to get started with home automation, but have no idea where to start, remember to figure out your needs, start small, and do your research, and you'll be on your way to a smarter home in no time.

HELPING YOU SHINE BRIGHT