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CUSTOM TECHNOLOGY • SIMPLE SOLUTIONS



7 Mistakes Homeowners Make When Planning Their Smart Home



Consumer interest in smart homes is growing exponentially, along with the technology that provides homeowners with the incredible features and functionality created by home automation systems. With the proper infrastructure and careful planning, many aspects of daily living can be integrated and enhanced in a smart home environment.

Climate control – innovative, motorized shades can be added to your smart home and programmed to adjust to specific settings and seasons. This keeps the climate control of your space intuitively managed and boosts energy efficiency. For example, a “Winter warm” setting opens the shades, taking advantage of sunlight warming a southern façade. “Summer cool” does the opposite by lowering shades and blocking solar heat gain, thereby reducing your cooling costs.

Lighting – room lighting can be controlled on a schedule, or can be changed with a push of the button for entertaining, mood lighting, and outdoor illumination. Systems can be programmed to change lighting in certain circumstances, such as turning on all lights if security issues are detected. Plus, control of your lights isn’t limited to a spot on the wall. Adjust lights from your bedside, turn lights on or off from your car or use an occupancy sensor so lights will turn off automatically.

Security – currently, this is one of the most desirable advantages of smart home technology. With the advancements in home automation technology, sensors and cameras can provide alerts and video feeds throughout the home, and the homeowner can monitor activity within the home or anywhere on the premises, from their smartphone or tablet – wherever they may be.

Entertainment – audio and streaming video can be routed for family and guest enjoyment anywhere in the home or to outside living areas. Private media rooms can be expertly designed and integrated with smart home controls so you can manage large media collections and perfectly engineered sound all from your smart phone!

7 Mistakes Homeowners Should Avoid When Planning a Smart Home

As attractive and convenient as a smart home can be, there are several critical mistakes every homeowner should avoid as they plan their smart home and decide what they need for long-term functionality.

1

Lack of Planning – this is one of the most important factors in implementing your smart home and home automation system. A smart home should utilize the best technology to make your home safe, convenient, comfortable, and fun – both inside and out. A structured wiring infrastructure is critical to making the home automation systems reliable, high-performing, and flexible for future devices and functions.

Consulting with a knowledgeable and experienced integration professional will reap long-term rewards for homeowners. With the many variations in connectivity, desired functionality, and budgets, working with an expert technology integrator during the initial stages of architect planning will result in an outcome that matches your needs.

2

Doing it Yourself – home automation is not a D.I.Y. project. You can't rely on YouTube to properly show you how to install a system when there is a whole home network design to keep in mind! You may think you will save a few dollars in the short term, but those savings will quickly erode when you need to upgrade or install additional functionality to your smart home at peak performance levels. Professional design and installation will exponentially save you money, and provide a more reliable and efficient system for expansion down the road.

3

Using multiple vendors – selecting several suppliers to design and implement your smart home environment will slow down the process, generate confusion on who is supplying certain equipment, and even result in components that don't work effectively together – if at all. This can increase costs and lead to additional frustration and unnecessary maintenance calls when support is needed, that results in finger-pointing between service providers.

4

Vendor selection – selecting the wrong vendor can be just as counter-productive as involving too many. You're not just looking for a basic technician who has run cabling across your entire space. Experienced technicians who are well-versed in technology and integrated devices for home automation will be critical to a system that gives you years of enjoyment and value from your investment. Seek out professionals who are knowledgeable in the planning and design of smart home systems, and can provide a complete solution from installation to support.

5

Limited access points – some homeowners may believe it's convenient to have one central point of control, but that will quickly lead to dissatisfaction as you use the system in every room of your smart home. Be sure to plan wisely for several access points by providing multiple controls such as tablets and smartphone access, as opposed to a single wall-mounted panel.

6

Forgetting security – the Internet of Things (IoT) provides unprecedented access and communications capabilities that are a part of a smart home plan. But it's important to keep in mind that these WiFi-enabled devices need to be protected against intruders and security risk. Make sure to get professional insight into the best products that will safeguard your smart home network, devices, and ultimately your family's safety.

7

Overdoing it – installing a system that is overly complicated or too technically challenging for the family to operate easily is a self-defeating effort. An ideal smart home automation system will be user-friendly and allow you to customize and tweak environment settings from your own smart device. The front-facing interface will effortlessly control every piece of smart technology you have in your home (so, there is no need for multiple clunky remotes). Plus, contrary to popular belief, a true smart home automation system does not run on WiFi alone. It has to be backed by a wisely planned wiring system to provide the performance you need and the influx of new technology you may want to add in the future.





Getting the Most Value from Your Smart Home

Careful planning and consulting with experienced integration professionals is the best way to maximize the return on your smart home investment. Structured wiring concepts that provide flexibility and reliability will allow updates and additions to your home automation system with the least effort and additional expense.

Smart home technology and new devices that provide even more enjoyment and benefits to homeowners are emerging on a regular basis. It's important your smart home design can provide the flexibility for taking advantage of new technology that suits your lifestyle and needs.

BlueSpeedAV has the engineering and technical experience that benefits customers and ensures satisfaction both now and as technology evolves and new features are desired.

Contact BlueSpeedAV today to discover how our certified and experienced technicians can help you maximize the long-term benefits from your smart home system, from planning and design, to training and support.