

A hand is shown interacting with a smart home control interface on a tablet. The interface displays various smart home categories like 'KITCHEN', 'living room', 'bedroom', and 'bathroom'. Under 'KITCHEN', there are icons for 'hood', 'bar table', 'dining table', 'white', and 'work surface'. Other icons for 'oven', 'microwave', and 'refrigerator' are also visible. A large brown circle with a white gear-like pattern is positioned above the text. The background is a blurred kitchen scene with a hand touching the screen.

Smart Home Trends to Follow This Year

ABSTRACT

Smart home trends are changing the way people live in their homes. At one point, this scene could have been out of a sci-fi movie. But in 2024, this is the reality for many homeowners who have welcomed smart home technology into their lives. “The use of smart home products in the kitchen and bathroom spaces is a trend looking forward to embracing.

INTRODUCTION

A smart home refers to a convenient home setup where appliances and devices can be controlled automatically or remotely with an internet connection and using a mobile or other networked device.

I. Smart Home: Definition, How They Work, Pros and Cons

What Is a Smart Home?



Devices in a smart home are interconnected through the internet, allowing the user to control functions such as security, access to the home, temperature, lighting, and a home theater.

How Smart Homes Work

A smart home’s devices are connected with each other and can be accessed through one central point—a smartphone, tablet, laptop, or game console. Door

locks, televisions, thermostats, home monitors, cameras, lights, and appliances such as the refrigerator can be controlled through one home automation system.

The system is installed on a mobile or other networked device, and the user can schedule the performance of tasks and devices.

Smart home appliances come with self-learning skills. They can learn the homeowner's schedules and make adjustments as needed. Smart homes enabled with lighting control allow homeowners to reduce electricity use and benefit from energy-related cost savings.

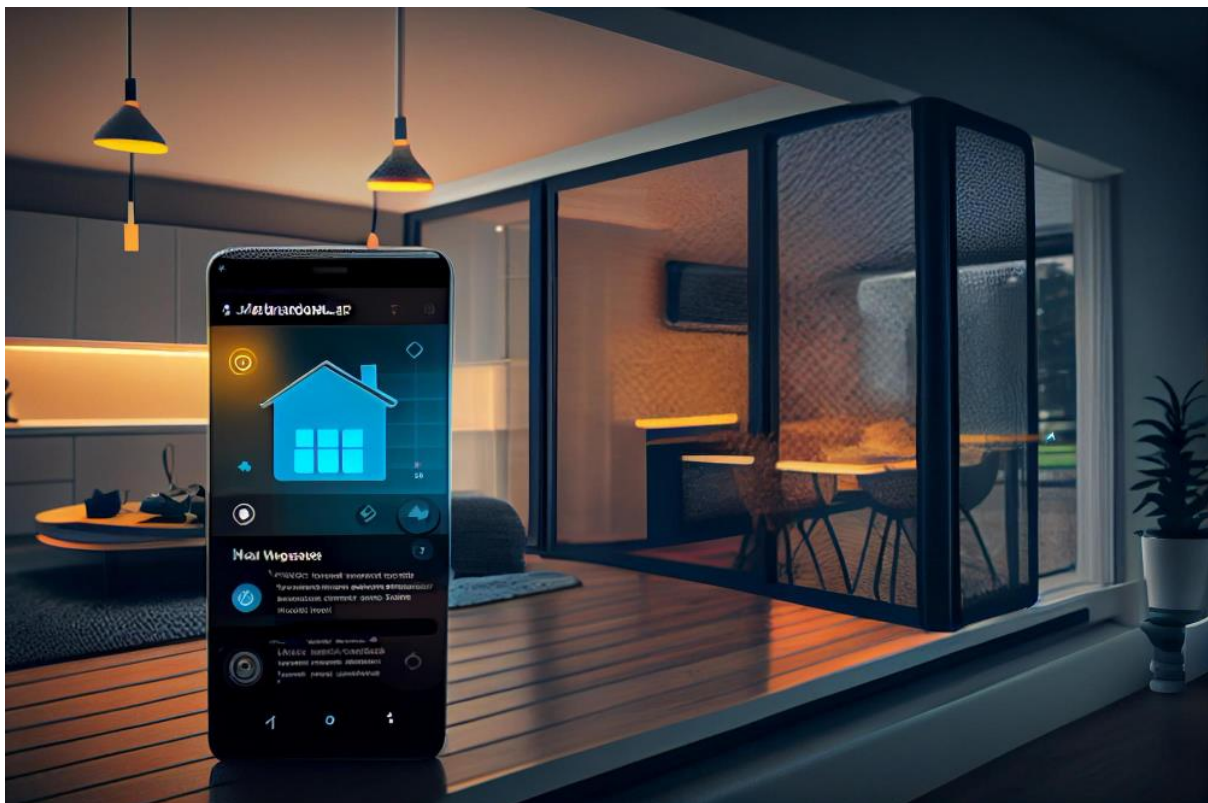
Some home automation systems alert the homeowner if any motion is detected in the home when they're away. Others can call the authorities—the police or the fire department—if dangerous situations arise.

Once connected, services such as a smart doorbell, smart security system, and smart appliances become part of the internet of things (IoT) technology, a network of physical objects that can gather and share electronic information.

Smart Home Systems

Wireless

Smart homes can feature either wireless or hardwired systems—or both. Wireless systems are easier to install. Putting in a wireless home automation system with features such as smart lighting, climate control, and security can be limited in cost to several thousand dollars, making it relatively cost-friendly.



The downside to wireless systems is you likely need strong Wi-Fi coverage and broadband service throughout your entire house. This may require you to invest in range extenders or hardwired wireless access points. Wireless smart home systems are generally more appropriate for smaller existing homes or rental properties.

Components of a Smart Home

Heating

Smart home products now allow for greater control over heating devices, including turning products on and off, and controlling settings. Smart products may be armed with temperature or humidity sensors to automatically turn on or off if certain criteria are met. This line of smart home innovations also extends to air conditioners.

Lighting

Often with the use of a mobile phone, tablet, or custom remote specific to a product, lighting products now offer homeowners enhanced capabilities and convenience. Lights can be switched on and off, placed on a schedule, or set to change based on sunrise or sunset times. Like some more traditional products, lights can often be set to change based on motion. Smart bulbs can communicate over Wi-Fi and display statistics or metrics on your phone.

Audio/Visual

One of the more appealing aspects of smart homes is the many entertainment products that can be connected to each other and controlled with a single remote. Television and speakers can be played on command using applications. They can be operated according to a schedule or by voice-control.

Security

One of the most important aspects of a smart home is the enhanced security capabilities it offers. Products with cameras track motion, capture video, or allow for live video feeds. These may be installed to sync with a ringing doorbell or set to capture certain areas of your property. Products can facilitate audio as well as video calls with individuals at your door.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Smart Homes

Advantages

- Smart home technology systems offer homeowners convenience. Rather than controlling appliances, thermostats, lighting, and other features individually or by using different devices, homeowners can control them all using one device—usually a smartphone or tablet.

- Security may be enhanced because users can get notifications and updates on issues in their homes when they're away. For instance, smart doorbells allow homeowners to see and communicate with people who come to their doors when they're not at home.

Disadvantages

- Security risks and bugs continue to plague makers and users of smart home technology. Adept hackers, for example, can gain access to a smart home's internet-enabled appliances.² For example, in October 2016, a botnet called Mirai infiltrated interconnected devices of DVRs, cameras, and routers to bring down major websites through a denial of service attack, also known as a DDoS attack.³
- Risk mitigation involves the added effort of maintaining and periodically changing strong passwords, using encryption when available, and only connecting trusted devices to one's network.

Smart Homes



Pros

- Are often more convenient than traditional methods of scheduling, controlling, or accessing products
- May enhance security due to notifications or alerts
- Offers multiple ways of performing a certain task (e.g., lights can be turned on manually, automatically, remotely)
- May result in long-term cost savings due to efficient energy consumption

Cons

- May pose security risk as products are connected to networks that can be hacked
- May require additional work for homeowner related to tracking additional passwords and monitoring product security
- Are often more expensive than their less- or non-smart counterparts
- May involve a steep learning curve, especially for those not tech-savvy

Home Much Does a Smart Home Cost?

As more and more smart home products are brought to market, pressure to lower prices will be put on manufacturers and their competition. On the other hand, innovations are continually expanding what smart home products can do. As a result, prices for the latest technology may remain high.

When contemplating smart home products, consider performing a cost-benefit analysis to determine whether the product price exceeds the benefits it offers you.

What Is In a Smart Home?

Smart homes can have smart speakers, lights, thermostats, doorbells, or home hubs. Smart technology can also extend to kitchen appliances and outdoor or landscaping equipment. New innovations are continually evolving what is in a smart home.

Why Is a Smart Home Important?

A smart home is important because it allows a household to become more energy efficient. In addition, it allows people to save time and perform tasks more easily and efficiently. A smart home also offers a level of convenience that's absent with the manual method of performing tasks (e.g., turning on lights yourself).

II. Smart Appliances Every High-Tech Home Needs

There may be a few scenarios at play here. You've either seen someone's home filled with smart appliances and realized just how convenient they are, started with one piece of tech yourself and became obsessed, or just know AI is the way of the future and just can't wait to be a Jetson.

Okay, so maybe there are a million other scenarios that drove you to look at this page. Whatever brought you here, you're in good hands. We've wrangled up some of the best smart appliances for home automation experts, newbies, and everything in between.

What is a smart home appliance?



If you're new to this channel (now we sound like a smartthings vlogger), a smart home device is a gadget stolen straight from the future. Just kidding. A smart appliance is simply a Wi-Fi-enabled appliance that connects with a smart hub or voice command system, such as a Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa or smart home app.

Connectivity is key. Especially with voice assistants. This allows you to control the appliance/ product remotely or with your voice.

Here are the perfect smart products to gift the technology-obsessed:



Are smart appliances worth it?

That's entirely up to you and your situation. If you or a loved one struggles to stay on top of daily chores, smart appliances and tech in your home. These types of products can provide independence, security, and generally make life easier.

But something as simple as having a sleeping baby in your arms can make getting up to turn the music volume down (or up), turn the lights off, close all the blinds before baby is even in bed- slightly more challenging, if not time-consuming.



The kitchen is where you'll find most of the push towards smart appliances, and that's a beautiful thing. Because most of us don't grow up learning incredible recipes passed down by our great great great grandparents. (If you did, you're a lucky one.)

But food still tends to be the great combiner. The glue that binds families, friends, lovers. Cooking for someone is an act of love, if not a complete necessity (once you've been together long enough for cooking to be an everyday affair).

With so many needing a little extra help getting those experimental recipes just right, these smart appliances are nearly as vital as the food itself.



1. Touch-Screen Refrigerator

Refrigerators haven't really changed in the last few decades. Maybe a bit of their style (hellooo, stainless steel), but they generally do the same things.

Well, a smart refrigerator is finally shaking up the game. These bad boys can look up recipes and read the steps to you while cooking, create grocery lists that display on their french doors, and add the lists to your smartphone. They can even send you notifications if a food item is set to spoil.

Some of the smarter fridge and freezer combos have cameras inside to let you see what you have on-hand (or don't have) in real-time while you're at the store.

Yeah, quite a bit different than the dry erase list many of us keep on our fridge doors.

2. Microwave With Voice Control



Have you ever put something in the microwave, then rushed off to do something else, only to fling yourself across the room because whatever you put in there is boiling and splattering all over?

No? Well, you haven't lived until you've dashed to stop boiling milk or splattering tomato sauce. Then again, you could just be lucky enough to have a smart microwave that listens to your every command, as if you were the ruler of the galaxy.



3. High-Speed Smart Toasters

It's not just the speed at which you can burn your toast, it's how intelligent you can. Yeah, it sounds a little far-fetched to say that a toaster can do anything else but... toast, but it can!

Some smart toasters can burn images onto your toast. That's how bored we were with the old spring and heating coil toasters.

Other fun tricks these babies can perform include cooking various types of bread at different temperatures, speeds, and personal settings. It'll remember you, is what we're saying, and if you get a smart toaster, you'll probably never forget us for telling you about it.



4. Multifunctional Digital Air Fryer

Air fryers are the slow cookers sensation of modern kitchen life, and they just keep getting better. You can air fry virtually anything!

What's better than a mini, enclosed fryer that cooks nearly any food item in less than half the time and with only a tablespoon of oil? One that does it at the command of your booming voice (okay, you can speak calmly. It'll still listen).



5. Smart Oven

An oven is an oven is an oven, right? Wrong. Some ovens are much more than ovens. They're watch dogs that'll sync with your recipes to preheat properly or automatically shut off when your food is ready (before you burn it).

They're jacks of all trades, adding steam for recipes that need more humidity (like the sourdough bread everyone learned to make during the pandemic) and more air for goods like cookies (aka convection).

III. Five Tips for Making Your House an Energy-Saving Smart Home

The future we once envisioned is now becoming a reality.

Automation is a part of our daily lives and homes today, and we now have the power to control almost everything from our smartphones – from home security systems to entertainment like music and movies. Voice assistants, like the Amazon Echo and Google Home, are making these tasks even easier.



But did you know that the addition of smart home devices can make your home more energy efficient and help you save loads of money over time?

Here are five simple tips on how you can make your house an energy-saving smart home:

1. Prevent energy vampires with smart power strips

Energy vampires can lurk in your home even when you aren't aware of it. When electronic devices are plugged into your wall, even when powered off, they are still using tons of power.

Statistics vary, but the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory states that standby power consumption in an average home ranges from five to 10 percent of household energy consumption.

2. Keep your home at a comfy temperature with a smart thermostat

When the summer heat rolls in, it's tempting to blast your air conditioning unit in an attempt to stay cool. This method will seriously rack up your energy bill – but luckily there is a solution.

Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi-connected devices that automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home.

Typical features include programming temperatures you prefer, developing an ideal automated schedule, providing energy usage data that you can easily manage and enabling control of your home's temperature through your smartphone.

3. Block the sun out with smart blinds

In the summer when the days are long, the sun shines into your home for a majority of the day. Smart blinds can make the most of the day's natural light, while keeping out the rays at the hottest times.

Smart motorized window shades can help regulate the heat that a room typically experiences by opening and closing at regular pre-programmed times.

The blinds will know when to close during the hottest parts of the day to reduce the need for air conditioning. They are also programmed to open during a bright day in the winter to let the sun heat the room.

4. Control your lights with smart lighting

Remembering to turn the lights off when you leave a room can easily slip your mind when you are in a hurry. Luckily, with smart options, this won't be a problem anymore.



A smart bulb is an internet-capable LED light bulb that allows lighting to be customized, scheduled and controlled remotely. For example, when you are vacationing this summer, you can program your lights so that you still come home to a lit house without wasting energy while you are gone.

5. Make daily tasks simple with smart appliances

What if your daily household chores didn't have to be so time consuming? Smart appliances give homeowners the option to simplify their day-to-day life, while saving a bit of energy.

For example, smart dishwashers bring enhanced features to your standard dishwasher, including Wi-Fi connectivity and flexibility options such as voice controls. You also have the option to start wash cycles from your smartphone and monitor the performance. Alerts will be sent to your phone when a wash is finished or if there is a malfunction.

IV. Energy-Saving Tips To Use While Cleaning Your Home

Cleaning an entire house is one of those tasks that consume a lot of utility. A higher percentage of electricity consumption often comes from the cleaning appliances and processes used by households to eliminate dust, dirt, grease, and stubborn stains from surfaces.

Heavy-duty vacuum cleaners, washing machines, steam cleaners, dishwashers, and other electronic gadgets contribute the most during the house cleaning session.

While some newer models are energy efficient, you should always focus on leveraging smart tips and tricks to reduce electricity bills.



Fortunately, Adelaide successfully switched to 100% renewable electricity, enabling houses and businesses to use solar panels and save non-renewable resources.

Furthermore, below are some great energy-saving tips and tricks to use when sprucing up your home. Making small changes to your day-to-day cleaning habits can make a huge difference and help you save energy and money.

Let's Get Started!

1. Use Energy-Efficient Cleaning Equipment

Are you still using a heavy-duty vacuum cleaner or a steam cleaning machine? These consume the highest percentage of energy. So, make a smart move and upgrade your existing cleaning tools to energy-efficient ones.

Check the energy-efficient star label, and remember that having five stars makes an appliance more efficient. So, you must upgrade your carpet cleaning machine, pressure cleaner, dishwasher, washing machine, and other electrical devices used for cleaning purposes.

If you want to reduce allergens and ailments from your living space, then book experts for a budget House Cleaning Adelaide and maintain a tidy abode all year round. The best part is that professionals will bring energy-efficient gadgets to spruce your home according to the pre-approved checklist.

2. Dusting with Microfiber Cloths

This is one of the easiest hacks that can help you save utility bills. Good quality microfiber cloths can replace the requirement of a vacuum cleaner for lighter dusting tasks, such as wiping down light fixtures, switchboards, dusting shelves, cabinet tops, blinds, etc.

You just need to dampen the cloth and wipe down hard surfaces to trap accumulated dust, dirt, debris and pollen in a breeze. The best part is that it is a sustainable dusting tool that can help reduce landfill waste.

3. Clean Your Home on Cooler Hours of the Day

Some cleaning chores may produce heat in your rooms and encourage you to turn on the air conditioning system. This can increase your electricity bill.



For instance, washing dishes in a dishwasher during the hotter hours of the day could raise the temperature in your kitchen, which could trigger your HVAC system to generate more energy.

On the other hand, running the electronic appliances in the event could reduce the excess electricity used by your AC, saving your electricity consumption and hard-earned money.

However, if you are at the end of your tenancy, hire experts for a cheap end of lease cleaning Adelaide as per your schedule and pass the final rental inspection. They can help you get the full bond back without any dispute.

4. Open Window Treatments When Cleaning

Dusting, vacuuming, sweeping, and mopping are time-consuming cleaning tasks. Deep cleaning of the entire premises could take 2-3 hours. Using traditional light bulbs and tube lights during the process can consume a lot of energy.

So, it is good to make the most of natural light by opening your window curtains and blinds. Spruce up your home in the daytime and reduce the use of artificial lighting. Make sure you keep your windows clean and streak-free to enjoy shiny and bright sunlight inside your rooms.

Tip: Replace your traditional bulbs with LEDs and save up to 75 per cent of electricity.

5. Use Traditional Non-Electric Cleaning Solutions

Many End of lease cleaning Adelaide experts believe some cleaning chores can be performed without using new-age gadgets. For instance:

- You can sweep any hard floor using a broom rather than using an electric sweeper.
- Blot the carpet spill or splatter using a damp cloth and vinegar solution instead of a steam cleaner. Use the same blotting technique to clean upholstery stains
- Clean small area rugs by beating them outside the house. This will remove embedded dust and pollen.
- Using microfiber mops instead of electric floor cleaners
- Use rubber gloves or duct tape to remove pet hair from a couch.

6. Reduce Dependency on Hot Water

Hot or water is undoubtedly effective in dislodging stains, grime, and gunk and even killing lethal germs. However, it can be a major source of energy consumption on a daily basis.

So, find ways to cut down on your dependency on hot water. For instance, wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot water in a machine. Similarly, wash your dirty dishes in hot water and rinse them with cold water instead of using warm water for both.

These small changes can make a huge difference and help you save on electricity bills.



7. Deep Clean Your Air Filters

Dirt-laden air filters can cause your HVAC system to use more electricity, increasing your utility bills. So, it is good to regularly clean the air filters as per the manufacturer's instructions. You can vacuum-clean them or remove gunk using a white vinegar solution. Make sure you wipe them down with a clean cloth to promote healthy, fresh and clean indoor air.

8. Use Biodegradable Cleaning Products

Ammonia and bleach-based products require hot water and proper cleaning equipment to break down the soap residue. On the other hand, energy-efficient products, such as concentrated cleaning products, DIY vinegar cleaner, baking soda, lemon, and hydrogen peroxide, can break down easily without consuming too much energy.

You can even hire professionals for a quality end of lease cleaning Adelaide that can bring energy-efficient tools and products to help save energy while passing your end-to-tenancy inspection. With their assistance, you can impress the fussy landlord and save your bond money.

These are the most efficient and reliable tips and tricks for saving electricity or utility bills when sprucing up your home like a pro. Make smart choices, consider non-renewable resources, and create a greener, healthier, and happier indoor environment.

V. Products That Will Clean Your House in Less Than an Hour

No matter how well you plan your cleaning schedule, there's always so much to do. Mopping the floors, vacuuming the carpet, cleaning the baseboards—it all adds up, and before you know it, you've spent hours getting your house in tip-top shape. If you're looking to cut down on cleaning time while still achieving great results, check out these cleaning devices that do the hard work for you.

From window cleaners to robot vacuums, these products will make your life easier and your home cleaner. And while you're on a cleaning kick, learn these other secrets of people who always have a clean house.

Tineco iFloor 3 Wet/Dry Vacuum



If you're in the market for a vacuum, why not choose one that goes above and beyond for you? The Tineco iFloor 3 is a wet/dry vacuum, which means it washes and vacuums your floors at the exact same time, cutting your cleaning time in half. It's ideal for hard surfaces, in particular—including laminate, vinyl, tile, marble and sealed wood—and it delivers a streak-free shine. Sweeping first, then mopping is going to feel so archaic after you get this bad boy. Plus, with all the time you'll save, you'll finally be able to turn your attention to these spots you're not vacuuming—but should be.



Homitt Electric Spin Scrubber Power Brush

Few things are as satisfying as watching stubborn slime magically disappear, especially when you're basically wielding a power tool. The Homitt Electric Scrubber Power Brush is perfect for cleaning hard-to-reach spaces known for accumulating gross stuff in both the bathroom (like that pink gunk in the shower) and kitchen. This cordless device features a high-torque spinning mechanism and multiple brush heads, making it a lot faster and more efficient than elbow grease.



iRobot Roomba 960 Robot Vacuum

You should vacuum several times a week in order to eliminate dust, allergens, dirt and other gunk from your floors, but that's easier said than done. Using an automated vacuum cleaner is one way to make sure this chore gets done as frequently as it ought to, and Roomba's got the lockdown on these devices.

The iRobot connects to Wi-Fi, is compatible with Alexa and works on both hard surfaces and carpets. It also recharges without your help. The only thing you're responsible for is cleaning out the dust pan. One important note: Make sure you know the places you should (and shouldn't) store your Roomba.

You can also explore vacuum deals to find a pocket-friendly vacuum cleaner suitable for yourself.



Levoit H13 True HEPA Filter Air Purifier

Though you can't really see it, the air in our homes often isn't as clean as it could be. And now, more than ever, a HEPA air purifier is a necessary cleaning gadget to own. The best part is that it requires virtually zero work from you; just turn the dang thing on! The Levoit H13 is one of Amazon's best-reviewed units, and it effectively tackles allergens, pet dander, smoke, dust, mold and pollen for a cleaner space and easier breathing.



iRobot Braava Jet 240 Superior Robot Mop

If you've automated your vacuuming, you might wish you could do the same with your mopping. Guess what—you can! The Braava Jet robot uses water and disposable pads to clean hard surfaces, including wood, laminate and tiles, and it can mop for up to two hours on a single charge. How else can you keep your home spotless? With these clever cleaning hacks you'll want to steal from professional house cleaners.



Coway Bidetmega 400E Electronic Bidet Seat

We know what you're thinking: How is a bidet supposed to help me get my house clean? The Coway Bidetmega 400 isn't just a regular bidet. In addition to helping you take care of your personal business, it features a triple-stage wash-care system that keeps the water path, nozzle and toilet free of contaminants so that your toilet always sparkles. It's easy to install, and—bonus!—you might save yourself some money on toilet paper. Just make sure to check what style toilet you have before buying; this unit comes in both rounded and elongated styles.



Brilli Bright Clean Recessed Light

What if we told you it was possible to get a cleaner home—and especially a cleaner bathroom—simply by flipping on the lights? Brilli has utilized bacteria-busting light technology with this recessed light that can be used in the shower. When on, it kills 99% of bacteria, mold and fungi, and it is completely safe for humans, fur companions and even your plants.



Dupray Tosca Steam Cleaner

Aside from scrubbing toilets, cleaning grout is probably the most dreaded chore on your list (even if you're using effective products like Zep Grout Cleaner). Believe it or not, you can forget the sore knees, headaches and the monotony of it all with this does-it-all steaming gadget. It technically requires a bit of effort on your part, but Dupray's steam-powered cleaner drastically cuts your labor time. It is also multifunctional and can be used on carpets, ovens, appliances, mattresses and car upholstery. Steam is a safe, chemical-free way to clean your home.



Conair Turbo ExtremeSteam Handheld Fabric Steamer

The smart home space fascinates me -- first, because it promises to transform the way we live. Second, because it has been at the cusp of taking off for decades. And lastly, because it represents big business for technology companies and tech startup entrepreneurs.

Think about smart homes as places where people live that contain devices connected to the Internet. Companies write software to program these devices all with a design to make your life easier. Let's imagine for a moment all of the places you might want connected devices outside of the home. A car could have a device that monitors where it goes and the wear and tear on the wheels.

This would all be reported back to the cloud, sharing with the driver at some later date that's it's time to realign or change the tires. Machinery within a factory might send out a report of their performance and then be adjusted to increase the output of whatever the factory is making. The Fitbit bracelet on your wrist captures your steps and can suggest what you need to do to improve your health. All of these examples are smart devices. And all of them, including devices that make up the smart home category, are part of the bigger category the Internet of Things, or IoT.

John Barrett:

"The Internet of things, in a way, is not a recent concept, in that there has been research on wireless sensor networks for decades, and the Internet of Things is fundamentally a wireless sensor network that is now connected to the Internet. The activity of the Nimbus Centre has grown out of research that we were doing for quite some time in the whole area of wireless sensor networks for various forms of monitoring. But these usually connected to a dedicated non-public wireless network, whereas the Internet of Things connects the sensors effectively to the public Internet.

John Barrett:

"Approaching it from a national or government point of view, you have major problems like global warming, national security, and energy management. Conceivably, the Internet of Things can help, if not to stop them, to at least improve things. . . . If you have some ability to monitor groundwater levels, river flows, rainfalls, you have some ability to perhaps be able to predict in advance when and where flooding is going to occur. If you can manage energy better and increase energy efficiency, you can reduce energy consumption and therefore the impact on the environment, and perhaps hold off global warming or at least slow it down. With the growth in international terrorism, some of it caused by the Internet itself, the ability to be able to better monitor what's going on is a major market."



The History of the Smart Home

This idea of a home that could minimize work for its inhabitants was sold en masse to American homemakers in the beginning of the 20th century. It came in the form of the world's first vacuum cleaner in 1901, followed by the electric washing machine in 1904. In the following decades, the clothes dryer, clothes iron, refrigerator, dishwasher, garbage disposal, and other appliances would be introduced. The time saved by these automated appliances can't be understated when compared to doing these tasks manually, although it's hard for us today to imagine living without such modern creature comforts.

CONCLUSION

In 2024, it makes sense to invest in smart home devices that are compatible with one another across your entire house, making your smart home experience seamless.

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