

Smart Home

Practical skills

What actually helps, what to be cautious about, and the questions to ask.

Useful, with real trade-offs.

Genuinely useful

Smart thermostat and TRVs

Timer plugs for lamps

Video doorbell

Leak sensors near washing machines

Smart smoke alarms

Ask first

Does it work offline?

What happens if the company closes?

Where is the data stored?

Does it need a subscription?

Can it be updated?

Security

Change default passwords

Separate guest network for devices

Keep firmware updated

Cameras not pointing indoors unnecessarily

Anything essential — locks, heating, alarms — should work without an internet connection. Check before buying.