Smart Home Starter Checklist

Essential Smart Devices to Get Started

[ ] Smart Speaker or Voice Assistant (Alexa, Google Nest, Siri)

[ ] Smart Lighting (Bulbs, Switches, Motion Sensors)

[ ] Smart Thermostat (e.g., Nest, Ecobee)

[ ] Smart Plugs or Smart Power Strips

[ ] Smart Lock or Video Doorbell

[ ] Smart Home Hub (optional but helpful for Zigbee/Z-Wave devices)

Connectivity & Setup Essentials

[ ] Reliable Wi-Fi with strong signal throughout your home

[ ] Smartphone with the latest iOS or Android

[ ] Companion apps for each device installed

[ ] Smart home platform selected (Alexa, Google Home, Apple HomeKit, SmartThings)

[ ] Firmware updates applied after setup

Security & Privacy Setup

[ ] Change default usernames and passwords

[ ] Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) on apps

[ ] Set up guest or separate Wi-Fi network for smart devices

[ ] Review and limit data-sharing permissions

[ ] Enable encryption where available

Automation & Routines

[ ] Create basic routines (e.g., Good Morning, Bedtime, Away Mode)

[ ] Link devices using automation triggers (e.g., motion = turn on light)

[ ] Customize notifications (door unlock alerts, motion detection, etc.)

[ ] Test routines for reliability

Energy Efficiency Tips

[ ] Enable eco-mode on thermostats

[ ] Use motion or schedule-based lighting

[ ] Monitor energy use via smart plugs

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[ ] Replace energy-hungry devices with energy-efficient smart alternatives

Future-Proofing

[ ] Choose Matter-compatible devices where possible

[ ] Keep devices updated regularly

[ ] Expand gradually with compatible brands

[ ] Plan for integrations (e.g., voice + lighting + climate)