



Center for
Mature Market
EXCELLENCE®



Life Tomorrow

TOP SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES FOR MATURE HOMEOWNERS

Learn About The Technologies



The Hartford Center for Mature Market Excellence® and the MIT AgeLab conducted research to better understand which smart home technologies may benefit homeowners over the age of 50. Our research involved an extensive review of new technologies by leading experts in home, aging, and technology from the fields of occupational therapy, interior design, computer science, gerontology, and engineering. Their reviews were used to identify the top 10 smart home technologies that can make life easier, help with home maintenance, and enhance safety and security for homeowners over the age of 50.

Smart home technology can benefit people of all ages, but for those age 50 and older in particular, it can help support their varied lifestyles. What makes these technologies “smart” is the ability to control the device or receive notifications on a smart phone or other mobile device. This can provide convenience and peace of mind whether the homeowner is at home or away.

The technologies that rank high in our research include:

1. **Smart Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors** can send an alert to the user’s smart phone while sounding an alarm in the home about the presence of smoke and carbon monoxide; if connected to a security system that has central monitoring, emergency responders may be alerted.
2. **Wireless Doorbell Cameras** offer homeowners increased security by sending an alert when someone is present and by live streaming the area around a door to the user’s smart phone to monitor activity and to enable homeowners to interact with visitors remotely or from within the home.

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TOP SMART HOME TECHNOLOGIES (CONT.)

3. **Keyless Entry** provides homeowners the ability to lock and unlock a door remotely via their smart phone or by holding their phone near the lock for increased security and convenience.
4. **Automatic Lighting** can be turned on and off, scheduled, and adjusted for brightness via smart phone to increase visibility when at home and for additional security when away from home.
5. **Smart Water Shut Off Valves** enable a homeowner to turn the water off remotely via smart phone or automatically; when used with a smart water sensor, they will automatically turn off the water when a leak is detected to prevent additional water damage.
6. **Smart Home Security Systems** use sensors and/or cameras to monitor access and activity around the home, send an alert to the user's smart phone when motion has been detected, and when activated, may alert emergency responders.
7. **Smart Outlets/Plugs** connect with a smart phone to allow users to control power to the outlet and the devices and appliances plugged into the outlet, and may send an alert if items are left on, which can help prevent fire and save energy.
8. **Smart Thermostats** allow the homeowner to monitor and adjust home temperature and humidity remotely and may learn patterns of residents and make adjustments automatically, thereby reducing the cost of heating and cooling the home and avoiding frozen pipes.
9. **Water and/or Mold Monitoring Sensors** detect water leaks and/or mold and can send an instant alert to the user's smart phone, thereby bringing immediate attention to a potential problem; if used with a water shut off valve the leak can be stopped immediately.
10. **Smart Window Blinds** can open and close according to a set schedule, by sensing changes in light or temperature, or be controlled by a smart phone, to increase security and privacy whether the homeowner is at home or away.

For more information on the **Top Smart Home Technologies**, including a list of **Top Smart Home Technologies for Homeowners with a Health Condition or Family Caregivers**, visit: thehartford.com/lifetime and follow us at: www.twitter.com/thehartfordcmme.

This information is intended to help individuals who seek information about smart home technology. It is not intended to be an exhaustive source or to relate to a particular product, service, individual, or living situation. Readers are advised to consult the appropriate professionals to assist them in analyzing their situation.

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