

SMART HOME, SMARTER START — HOW TO FUTURE-PROOF YOUR HOME IN 2026

TECH TALK



Each new year brings an explosion of new technology — faster devices, smarter appliances, and more ways to stay connected. But before adding the latest gadgets to your home, it's worth taking a moment to make sure your space is ready to support them. A “fresh start” for your home technology can help improve reliability, increase efficiency, and make everyday tasks a little easier.

Here's how to prepare your home for a smarter, smoother 2026.

Check Your Connectivity Foundation

Your home network is the engine that powers most modern technology. If you've added new devices over the years — smart TVs, doorbell cameras, thermostats, streaming boxes — they may be using more bandwidth than your current setup can comfortably support.

A strong wired and Wi-Fi connection ensures:

- Faster streaming without buffering
- Clearer video calls
- More reliable smart device performance
- Secure connections for work-from-home needs

If you take SEI Fiber, consider assessing whether your current speed package matches your household's usage. Homes today often have 20–40 connected devices — far more than most people realize. Ensuring your network can handle the load helps prevent slowdowns and keeps everything running smoothly.

Evaluate Your Smart Home Devices

Technology evolves quickly, and outdated devices can create security risks or compatibility issues. Start the year by reviewing the smart devices you already have:

- Are they still supported by the manufacturer?
- Are firmware updates available?
- Do they still meet your needs?

Replacing unsupported equipment — especially routers, cameras, and hubs — helps protect your home and improves performance across your network.

Prioritize Cybersecurity in the New Year

Strong tech begins with strong protection. Take a few minutes to:

- Update passwords on your Wi-Fi and smart devices
- Enable two-factor authentication where available
- Remove unused devices from your network
- Ensure all devices have the most recent security updates

A secure network keeps your data — and your household — safer.

Leverage Automation for Convenience and Savings

Smart plugs, thermostats, lighting systems, and energy-monitoring tools can help you save money and reduce waste. Automating daily tasks — like adjusting your thermostat, turning off lights, or managing home comfort — keeps energy use efficient without requiring constant attention.

Start 2026 with Tech That Works for You

A smart home doesn't have to be complicated. With a few intentional updates, your home can be more efficient, secure, and ready for whatever technology the new year brings. Whether you're optimizing your Wi-Fi, reviewing smart devices, or embracing automation, a little preparation now sets the stage for a connected, confident year ahead.