

Smart home technology is important for today's homeowners

Many new homes come pre-equipped with products that can be controlled with your smartphone

BY MICHAEL STRECH
NORTH STATE BUILDING
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Consumer technology continues to expand by leaps and bounds every year, with new products coming online to make it easier for homeowners to manage their home from the comfort of their recliner or even from hundreds of miles away.

Fortunately, today's new homes are designed with technology in mind. Many come with such features as Internet-controlled thermostats, smart light switches, video doorbells and security systems already installed. This is important for homebuyers who see smart technology as a way to enjoy a higher quality of life with more convenience, energy savings, security and well-being.

And there are so many



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more products that can be controlled online, such as your refrigerator, washer and dryer — even your oven — by using your smartphone or AI-powered

assistant such as Alexa or Siri.

The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) recently surveyed prospective and recent

homebuyers and found that the most desired technology features in the home are related to comfort and security.

As homeowners spend

more time in their living space, achieving an optimal level of comfort is at the forefront. When it comes to technology features to help enhance enjoyment while at home, a programmable thermostat was rated essential or desirable by 77% of home buyers. Also temperature-related, a majority (59%) of homebuyers said they wanted a multizone HVAC system, which allows homeowners to adjust the temperature in different areas, or “zones,” of the home.

At home or away, homeowners want to make sure their family and their property are safe. Security features were also highly ranked among the essential or desirable technology features for homebuyers. A majority of buyers said they would like security cameras (77%) and a video doorbell (70%). When it comes to a home security system, connectivity capabilities made the difference. Most buyers preferred a wireless system (70%) compared to a wired security system (59%).

It will probably come as little surprise, but households with children are also more likely to find different types of technology essential. Nearly a quarter (23%) of married couples with children rated voice-activated assistants (such as an Echo or HomePod) as desirable or essential, compared to only 10% of married couples with no children.

There is also a significant difference when it comes to operating major appliances. More households with a married couple with children say they want a remote-controlled smart washer and dryer compared to a married couple with no children. Smart refrigerators controlled remotely were also rated more essential or desirable for married couples with children, compared to married couples without children.

Not all home technology features were rated essential by home buyers. The biggest standout was electric car stations, with more than a third (35%) of buyers saying they do not want this technology feature in their house — although here in California, as electric vehicles become more popular, that may not be the case. A home theatre finished a fairly distant second (29%).