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**imart Home Devices: the Key to Domestic Efficiency** 

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## **Smart Home Devices: the Key to Domestic Efficiency**





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LET'S STAY IN TOUCH have demanding jobs. They work long hours solving complex problems in business. That's why when executives get home, they want to relax.

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ppreciate, it's innovation. It should come as no ove every home owner's experience with smart everything from thermostat control to restocking are revolutionizing the executive's home.

eciate smart homes. 7 in 10 American households 5 have 2 devices or more. In the year of 2021, 349 is projected to increase more than 5 times over by

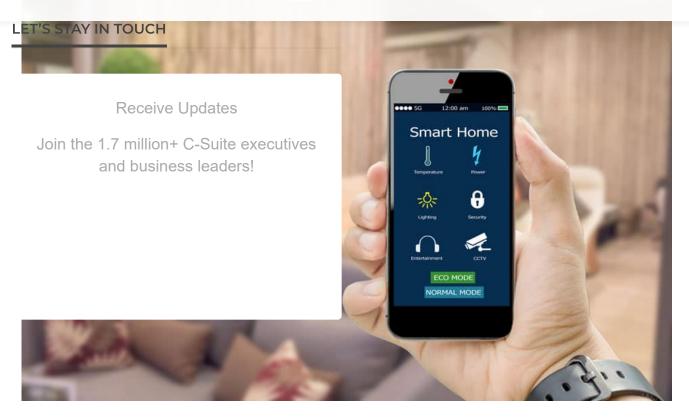
the most used smart home devices in the US? The

most popular category is entertainment. This can include smart TVs and smart speakers, such as Amazon's Alexa. The next popular category is security. 1 in 3 homes are able to lock their doors and monitor their homes from anywhere. In third place we have usage monitors. Usage monitors are helping 1 in 5 homes be more cost effective. Smart water heaters can save \$4,500 over 10 years. Smart thermostats can cut HVAC costs by 10% every year. Financial officers appreciate the cost savings represented in these numbers.

Other smart home devices like lighting and appliances don't have the same level of adoption yet. One reason could be their relatively new presence on the market. Another reason could be that smart appliances are still significantly more expensive than basic ones. Until customers can see a cost advantage to getting a smart appliance, they may decline to buy one.

Another reason for limited adoption of certain devices could be that they cater to a niche, not a wider market. For example, smart mirrors have a 2% adoption rate. The most popular smart mirror on the market, Hilo, caters to fitness junkies and makeup artists. These two segments of the wider home market appreciate smart mirrors for improving their workouts and makeup application process.

This is one way in which smart home technology can make the home more customizable to the individual living in it. Different homes support different smart devices to give owners the best experience. For a top executive who spends limited time at home, a smart refrigerator could optimize the grocery shopping process. Smart fridges can track the food inside them and alert the owner when something runs low or expires. Today, less than 5% of homes have smart fridges, implying exclusivity of the service.



Beyond different devices appealing to certain people, smart home devices more generally are seeing a generational divide in adoption. Young buyers especially are clamoring for their own piece of the smart home pie. 86% of Millennials would pay more for a connected home. They (along with Gen Z) overwhelmingly see adopting smart home tech as a positive. As a result, expect smart home tech adoption to grow with time. Millennials today are middle aged; they're the prime age to buy and improve houses. They're the generation spending the most on smart home technology to the tune of \$1,226 per year on average. If the current generation of business leaders aren't bringing smart tech into their home, the next generation will.

Thanks to the help of experts, smart home tech is always changing. Innovators and business leaders are sculpting smart home tech into faster, better, and more streamlined homeowner experiences. For example, Dr. Diane J. Cook is a professor at Washington State University. She is studying the ways sensors and robotic home care assistants can influence smart homeowner habits. On a wider scale, Dr. Saraju Mohanty of the University of Northern Texas is developing smart devices for city infrastructure. If cities implement smart devices safely, they can improve the lives of millions. Usage monitors alone can save cities millions of water and electricity.

Whether or not an individual is a customer in the market, one can still expect the smart home market to reach \$205.61 billion by 2026. This incredible growth will be fueled by major shifts in the industry. Mechanical innovations will occur alongside different price levels and subscription models. Right now, many smart devices are bought outright. However, a monthly subscription fee could offer a price more customers can afford.

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Brian Wallace is the Founder and President of NowSourcing, an industry-leading content marketing agency that makes the world's ideas simple, visual, and influential.

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