2026 NORTH TEXAS EDITION

Smart Home Starter Plan

What to buy, what to skip, and how to set it all up in 30 days — without wasting money on gadgets you don't need.

- ✓ Room-by-room Good / Better picks with real October 2026 prices
- ✓ Three starter budgets: ~$250, ~$600, ~$1,200
- ✓ Texas heat, storm, and utility-rebate tips
- ✓ Safety & privacy checklist for families

For new homeowners, renters & homebuyers in Collin County and North Texas

Texas Smart Home Solutions LLC · Princeton, TX · texassmarthomesolutions.com

Welcome — start here

You just got the keys (or you're about to). Somebody at the closing table probably said "you should make it a smart home." Then you looked online and found a thousand gadgets, five apps that don't talk to each other, and a pile of monthly fees. This plan cuts through that.

This guide is written for **regular households in North Texas** — homeowners, renters, and buyers who want the useful parts of a smart home (comfort, security, lower bills, peace of mind) without turning the house into a science project.

How to use this plan

Step	What to do	Where
1	Read the Quick Start and pick ONE ecosystem.	Section 1
2	Walk your home with the room-by-room checklist. Circle what you actually need.	Section 2
3	Read the 'skip this' list before you buy anything.	Section 3
4	Lock down Wi-Fi and accounts first — it takes an hour and saves headaches.	Section 4
5	Use the Texas notes for thermostat settings, outages, and rebates.	Section 5
6	Follow the 30-day plan and pick a budget.	Sections 6–7

About the prices in this guide

Every price was checked in **October 2026** at the store named next to it, and each one links to where we found it. Prices change weekly (and Amazon raised many device list prices on Aug 21, 2026), so tap the link before you buy. Prices exclude tax, shipping, and installation.

No brand paid to be in this guide. Picks are based on reliability, local control, and how few surprise fees they carry.

About Texas Smart Home Solutions

A note from the owner

Hi, I'm **Mathew Cain**, owner of Texas Smart Home Solutions LLC, based in Princeton, Texas. I'm a **U.S. Army veteran** and a **Technology Infrastructure Architect** — I spend my days designing networks and systems that have to just work. I started this business because I kept seeing North Texas families overpay for gear that didn't fit their home, or end up with cameras and locks that were never set up securely.

This guide is the same advice I give friends and neighbors: buy less, buy smart, set it up right. If you'd rather have it done for you, that's what we do — see the last page.

We serve Princeton, McKinney, Allen, Frisco, Prosper, Celina, Melissa, Anna, Plano, Richardson, Dallas, Rockwall, Greenville, Denton, Sherman, and Denison.

01 Quick Start

What a smart home actually does for you

Problem	Smart fix	Real-life payoff
Texas power bills in July	Smart thermostat with a schedule	Cools the house when you're home, eases off when you're not. Many electric programs even discount the thermostat (Section 5).
"Did I lock the door?"	Smart lock with auto-lock	Check or lock from your phone; give the dog walker a code instead of a key.
Packages and visitors	Video doorbell	See who's there from work or the couch; get alerts when a package lands.
Slow leaks you can't see	Leak sensors	A roughly $15 sensor under the sink beats a ruined cabinet and an insurance claim.
Coming home to a dark house	Smart bulbs, switches, plugs	Lights on at sunset, off at bedtime, randomized while you're on vacation.
Spotty Wi-Fi	Mesh Wi-Fi	Everything above depends on Wi-Fi reaching the porch, garage, and back yard.

Three rules that save you money

- ☐ **One ecosystem.** Pick Google, Alexa, Apple Home, or Home Assistant and buy devices that work with it.
- ☐ **Buy for a problem, not a gadget.** If you can't name what it fixes, skip it.
- ☐ **Fix Wi-Fi first, and prefer devices that don't need a subscription to do their main job.**

Matter & Thread in two sentences

> **Matter** is a shared language that lets smart devices from different brands work with Google, Alexa, Apple Home, and Home Assistant — look for the Matter logo on the box and you're far less likely to get stuck with a device your system can't use. **Thread** is a low-power wireless network many Matter devices use to talk to each other instead of crowding your Wi-Fi; it needs a "Thread border router," which is already built into many recent smart speakers and hubs.

Pick your ecosystem

	Google Home	Amazon Alexa	Apple Home	Home Assistant
Best for	Android households; Nest thermostat & camera fans	Widest device support; Ring owners; budget speakers	All-iPhone households who want privacy-first	Tinkerers who want local control and mix-any-brand
Starter hub / speaker	Nest Hub (2nd gen) $99.99 — Google Store	Echo Dot (5th gen) $79.99 list — Amazon (often on sale)	HomePod mini (2nd gen) $149 — Apple (ships Oct 30)	Home Assistant Green $199 MSRP — home-assistant.io
Strengths	Easy app, great Nest gear, Thread built into Nest Hub	Works with almost everything; cheap add-on speakers	Strong privacy, Siri, simple automations	Runs locally, works through internet outages, endless automations
Watch-outs	Many camera features need Google Home Premium ($10–$20/mo)	Ring recordings need a Ring plan; review Alexa privacy settings	Android users in the home can't use the Apple Home app	Learning curve — best as a 'step two' system

Simple decision chart

#	Ask yourself…	If YES	If NO
1	Does everyone in your home use an iPhone?	→ **Apple Home**	Go to 2
2	Do you already own Echo speakers or Ring devices?	→ **Amazon Alexa**	Go to 3
3	Do you use Android, Gmail, or Nest products?	→ **Google Home**	Go to 4
4	Do you enjoy tinkering and want everything to run locally?	→ **Home Assistant** (with Google or Alexa for voice)	→ **Google Home or Alexa** — both are safe defaults

Not sure? Relax.

Pick Google Home or Alexa and buy Matter-certified devices where you can. Matter devices can be shared with a second ecosystem later, so a choice today isn't a life sentence.

02 Room-by-Room Starter Checklist

Walk the house with this list. **Good** = solid, budget-friendly pick. **Better** = upgrade worth paying for if it fits your budget. Prices are as of Oct 2026 at the store shown.

Entry & front door

- ☐ Check for existing doorbell wiring (a wired chime usually means 8–24V power is there).
- ☐ Check your deadbolt: standard single-cylinder? Renters: get written permission before replacing a lock.
- ☐ Reset any doorbell, lock, or keypad the previous owner left behind and delete their codes.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Video doorbell	Ring Battery Doorbell 2K — $99.99, ring.com Video history needs a Ring plan	eufy Video Doorbell E340 — $169.99, eufy.com Dual camera, 8 GB local storage, no required plan	See visitors and packages; deter porch pirates
Smart lock	eufy Smart Lock C30 — $79.99, eufy.com Replaces deadbolt, built-in Wi-Fi, keys still work	Aqara U100 — $189.99, aqara.com Fingerprint, Apple Home Key, Matter over Thread	Auto-lock, guest codes, no more hidden keys
Renter option	Ring Peephole Cam 2K — $99.99, ring.com No-drill, fits the peephole	August Wi-Fi Smart Lock — $199.99, august.com Mounts over existing deadbolt inside	Smart entry without changing the landlord's hardware

Living room & main areas

- ☐ Find the thermostat and pop the cover: note the wire letters (especially a 'C' wire) and snap a photo.
- ☐ List the lamps and lights you use every evening — these are your first automations.
- ☐ Line-voltage switch wiring is not a beginner DIY job; use a licensed electrician or a pro installer.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Thermostat	Google Nest Thermostat — $129.99 list, $64.99 via Oncor Marketplace or ecobee Essential — $139.99, Home Depot ($74.99 via Oncor)	Nest Learning Thermostat (4th gen) — $279.99, Best Buy ($214.99 via Oncor) Includes a room temperature sensor	Biggest money-saver in a Texas home
Lights	WiZ Wi-Fi bulbs — $10.99 each, wizconnected.com No hub needed	Philips Hue Essential kit, 4 bulbs + Bridge — $139.99, philips-hue.com	Schedules, scenes, vacation mode
Switches	— (use bulbs or plugs first)	Lutron Caséta dimmer starter kit (hub, dimmer, Pico remote) — $99.95, Home Depot	Wall switch keeps working for guests
Smart plugs	Kasa Matter Smart Plug 4-pack (KP125MP4) — $49.99, Amazon Energy monitoring	Same — add more as needed	Lamps, holiday lights, fans
Voice / hub	Echo Dot $79.99 or Nest Hub $99.99 (see Section 1)	HomePod mini (2nd gen) $149 or Home Assistant Green $199	One place to control everything

Kitchen & laundry

- ☐ Put a leak sensor under the kitchen sink, behind the dishwasher, and behind the fridge if it has an ice maker.
- ☐ Add sensors by the washing machine and water heater.
- ☐ Don't put space heaters, irons, or cooking appliances on a smart plug — high-heat devices shouldn't turn on when no one is watching.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Leak sensors	Govee Wi-Fi Water Sensor 3-pack (with gateway) — $43.99, Amazon Loud local alarm + phone alert	Add a second Govee pack for laundry, water heater, and HVAC drain pan. Ask a plumber about an automatic water shutoff valve.	Leaks are the most common smart-home save
Smart plug	Kasa plug for the coffee maker — **only if** it has its own auto-off	Energy monitoring to spot power-hungry appliances	Convenience + energy awareness
Speaker	Any ecosystem speaker for timers & shopping lists	Nest Hub display for recipes & doorbell view	Hands-free when your hands are messy

Bedrooms

- ☐ **No cameras in bedrooms** (except a nursery monitor — see below).
- ☐ Use smart bulbs or a lamp on a smart plug for a gentle wake-up and a one-word "good night" routine.
- ☐ Two-story home with a hot upstairs? A room sensor helps the thermostat cool where people actually sleep.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Lighting	WiZ bulbs — $10.99 each, wizconnected.com	Philips Hue bulbs on your existing Hue Bridge	Wake-up light, bedtime routine
Comfort	Thermostat schedule with a cooler 'sleep' setting	Nest Learning Thermostat (4th gen) — its included temperature sensor can sit upstairs	Fixes the hot upstairs bedroom

Nursery & kids' rooms

- ☐ Mount any camera and its cord **at least 3 feet from the crib** and fully out of reach.
- ☐ Turn off voice purchasing and explicit content on any speaker in a kid's room.
- ☐ Use tamper-resistant outlet covers on outlets that aren't in use.
- ☐ Give older kids their own door code so you know when they get home.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Nursery camera	eufy Indoor Cam E220 — $54.99, eufy.com 2K, crying detection, local microSD recording	eufy Indoor Cam E30 — $69.99, eufy.com 4K, pan/tilt, Privacy Mode turns the lens away	Check on baby without a separate monitor plan
Night light	Lamp on a Kasa smart plug, on a schedule	Hue color bulb set to a dim warm glow	Bedtime routine kids can follow

Garage

- ☐ Check your opener brand and model sticker before buying a controller.
- ☐ Water heater in the garage or attic (common in North Texas)? It gets a leak sensor.
- ☐ Texas garages get very hot — check each device's operating temperature rating.

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Garage door	Chamberlain myQ Smart Garage Control — $29.99, Best Buy	Pair with a lock routine: "Leaving" closes the garage and locks the door	Never wonder if you left it open
Camera	Wyze Cam v4 — $44.98, wyze.com Rated -4°F to 122°F; needs microSD for local video	eufy SoloCam S220 for a detached garage or driveway (below)	Watch the tools, bikes, and the door
Leak sensor	From your Govee 3-pack	Second pack if you have many water appliances	Water heaters fail quietly

Outdoor

- ☐ Mount cameras under the eaves and out of direct west-facing afternoon sun when you can.
- ☐ Aim cameras at **your** property — not into a neighbor's windows or back yard.
- ☐ Make sure Wi-Fi actually reaches the spot (stand there with your phone and run a speed test).

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Outdoor camera	Wyze Cam v4 — $44.98, wyze.com IP65, needs an outlet and the outdoor power adapter (sold separately)	eufy SoloCam S220 — $69.99, Home Depot Solar, 8 GB built-in storage, no monthly fee	Driveway, back yard, side gate
Lighting	Smart plug (outdoor-rated) on porch lamp or string lights	Hue or Caséta for porch lights on a sunset schedule	Lit entry = safer entry

Whole-home basics: Wi-Fi and smoke/CO

Device	Good	Better	Why it matters
Wi-Fi	Your current router, if a phone speed test is solid in every room, the garage, and the porch	TP-Link Deco X55 Wi-Fi 6 mesh, 3-pack — $169.99, Amazon	Every smart device depends on it
Smoke / CO	Keep your existing interconnected alarms; test monthly. Some speakers and cameras can listen for alarms and alert your phone	First Alert SC5 Smart Smoke & CO — $129.95, First Alert store (out of stock when checked; Costco 2-pack $149.99 through 10/31/26)	Phone alerts when you're away. Google points Nest Protect owners to the SC5 as the replacement

Price reference — everything in this guide (as of Oct 2026)

Product	Price	Store / link	Note
Echo Dot (5th gen)	$79.99 list	Amazon	List rose from $49.99 on Aug 21, 2026; frequently discounted
Google Nest Hub (2nd gen)	$99.99	Google Store	Thread border router built in
Apple HomePod mini (2nd gen)	$149	Apple	Available Oct 30, 2026
Home Assistant Green	$199 MSRP	home-assistant.io	Retail prices vary
WiZ A19 Wi-Fi bulb	$10.99 each	wizconnected.com	No hub
Philips Hue Essential kit (4 bulbs + Bridge)	$139.99	philips-hue.com	Retailers seen at $119.99–$124.99
Lutron Caséta dimmer starter kit	$99.95	Home Depot	Hub + dimmer + Pico remote
Kasa Matter Smart Plug 4-pack (KP125MP4)	$49.99	Amazon	Energy monitoring
Ring Battery Doorbell 2K	$99.99	ring.com	Recordings need Ring Protect
Ring Peephole Cam 2K	$99.99	ring.com	Renter-friendly, no drilling
eufy Video Doorbell E340	$169.99	eufy.com	Local storage, no required plan
eufy Smart Lock C30	$79.99	eufy.com	Deadbolt replacement
Aqara Smart Lock U100	$189.99	aqara.com	Seen at $149.99 on Amazon
August Wi-Fi Smart Lock	$199.99	august.com	Fits over existing deadbolt
Google Nest Thermostat	$129.99 ($64.99 w/ Oncor)	Oncor Marketplace	Oncor customers only for discount
ecobee Smart Thermostat Essential	$139.99 ($74.99 w/ Oncor)	Home Depot / Oncor	Recent sales as low as $89.99
Nest Learning Thermostat (4th gen)	$279.99 ($214.99 w/ Oncor)	Best Buy / Oncor	Amazon $239.99 when checked
Wyze Cam v4	$44.98	wyze.com	microSD sold separately
eufy Indoor Cam E220 / E30	$54.99 / $69.99	eufy.com	Local microSD, no required plan
eufy SoloCam S220	$69.99	Home Depot	Solar; $59.99 seen at Walmart
Govee Wi-Fi Water Sensor 3-pack	$43.99	Amazon	List $54.99
First Alert SC5 Smart Smoke & CO	$129.95	First Alert store	Out of stock when checked
TP-Link Deco X55 3-pack	$169.99	Amazon	Wi-Fi 6 mesh
Chamberlain myQ Smart Garage Control	$29.99	Best Buy	Check opener compatibility

03 What to Skip (and the Fees Nobody Mentions)

Skip or avoid

Skip this	Why	Do this instead
No-name cameras from marketplace listings	Unknown security track record, few firmware updates, apps that ask for too many permissions, video sent who-knows-where	Stick with established brands that publish security updates and offer local storage
Devices that only work with a subscription	Some doorbells and cameras record nothing you can replay unless you pay monthly	Choose local storage (eufy, Wyze microSD) or budget the plan up front
Renter-unfriendly hardware (if you rent)	Replacing locks, rewiring switches, or drilling brick can break your lease	Battery/adhesive mounts, peephole cams, over-the-deadbolt locks, plug-in bulbs and plugs
Smart plugs on space heaters or high-heat appliances	Turning heat sources on remotely is a fire risk	Use plugs for lamps, fans, and holiday lights
Three ecosystems' worth of hubs	Duplicate apps, broken routines, wasted money	One ecosystem, Matter devices where possible
Cheap Wi-Fi extenders as a fix-all	Often cut speed in half and confuse cameras	A mesh system or proper router placement
Gear left by the previous owner (until reset)	They may still have access to your doorbell, lock, garage, or thermostat	Factory-reset everything and set it up under your own accounts

Hidden subscription costs (as of Oct 2026)

Plan	Price	What you get / notes
Ring Protect Solo	$4.99/mo	One device: video history up to 180 days, person/package alerts — ring.com/plans
Ring Protect Multi	$9.99/mo or $99.99/yr	All Ring devices at one address
Ring Protect Pro	$19.99/mo or $199.99/yr	Adds 24/7 professional monitoring and AI features
Google Home Premium Standard	$10/mo or $100/yr	30 days of event video for Nest cams/doorbells — Google Store
Google Home Premium Advanced	$20/mo or $200/yr	60 days of events + 10 days of 24/7 video
eufy, Wyze, Home Assistant cloud plans	Optional	Core features work without them; cloud backup and extra AI cost extra. Check each brand's current price.

Do the 3-year math before you buy

Ring Battery Doorbell 2K ($99.99) + Ring Protect Solo ($4.99 × 36 months) ≈ **$279.63** over three years.
eufy Video Doorbell E340 ($169.99) with free local storage ≈ **$169.99** over three years.
Neither is wrong — Ring's app and plan are excellent. Just know the real number going in.

04 Safety & Privacy Setup Checklist

Do this **before** you add your first device. It takes about an hour, and it's the part most installers skip.

Your network

- ☐ Change the router's admin password from the default (it's often on a sticker).
- ☐ Use WPA3 (or WPA2-AES) security and a long Wi-Fi password.
- ☐ Create a **separate Wi-Fi network for smart devices** (often called "IoT" or "guest"). Phones and laptops stay on the main network; cameras, plugs, and bulbs go on the IoT network.
- ☐ Many smart devices only use 2.4 GHz Wi-Fi — make sure your IoT network offers it.
- ☐ Turn on automatic firmware updates for the router or mesh system.

Your accounts

- ☐ Use a unique password for every smart-home app (a password manager makes this painless).
- ☐ Turn on **two-factor authentication (2FA)** for Google, Amazon, Apple, Ring, eufy, Wyze, and your router app.
- ☐ Share access with family through the app's "invite" feature — never share your login.
- ☐ New home? Factory-reset every device the previous owner left, change all door and garage codes, and remove old users.

Your devices

- ☐ Turn on auto-update in every app; check monthly for firmware updates.
- ☐ Before you buy, check how long the brand promises updates (for example, Philips Hue lists a minimum support period on its product pages).
- ☐ Retire devices that stop getting updates.
- ☐ Keep a physical key for every smart lock, and replace lock batteries when the app warns you.

Camera placement & privacy

- ☐ No cameras in bedrooms or bathrooms (nursery monitor excepted).
- ☐ Use privacy mode or a schedule so indoor cameras are off when the family is home.
- ☐ Use privacy zones to mask neighbors' windows and yards.
- ☐ Turn off audio recording where you don't need it.
- ☐ Heads-up for Texans: some face-recognition features (like Ring's Familiar Faces) aren't offered in Texas because of state law.

Kid safety

- ☐ Turn off voice purchasing (or require a PIN) on every speaker.
- ☐ Turn on kid profiles / parental controls and filter explicit content.
- ☐ Keep cords from cameras, lamps, and night lights out of reach — at least 3 feet from any crib.
- ☐ Teach kids that the door code is a family secret; give each child their own code.
- ☐ Mount devices high or out of reach; enable child lock where offered (thermostats, locks).

05 Texas Notes: Heat, Storms & Rebates

Beat the heat (and the bill)

In a North Texas summer, air conditioning is often the biggest thing on your electric bill. The U.S. Department of Energy suggests setting your thermostat as high as you're comfortable in summer — roughly 75–78°F when you're home — and raising it several degrees when no one is home (energy.gov).

Time of day	Suggested starting point	Tip
Home & awake	76–78°F	Run ceiling fans in rooms you're using — they cool people, not rooms.
Away at work/school	82–85°F	Let the thermostat bring it back down 30–60 minutes before you get home.
Sleeping	Whatever sleeps well (often 74–76°F)	Use a room sensor to cool the bedrooms, not the empty living room.
Peak-price hours (if your plan has them)	Pre-cool 1–2°F before, then coast	Check your electricity plan's fact label for time-of-use pricing.
Vacation	Raise it, but don't turn the AC off	Homes, pets, and electronics need protection from humidity and heat.

- ☐ Set a filter-change reminder in your thermostat app (dusty Texas summers clog filters fast).
- ☐ Turn on humidity monitoring if your thermostat has it.
- ☐ Put a leak sensor in the HVAC drain pan if your air handler is in the attic.

Storms, freezes & power outages

- ☐ Put your modem and router on a small battery backup (UPS) so Wi-Fi, cameras, and your phone app keep working through short outages.
- ☐ Prefer battery-powered doorbells and locks that keep a physical key backup.
- ☐ Learn your garage door's manual release cord — no power means no app.
- ☐ Freeze warning? Place leak sensors near exposed pipes and the water heater; many sensors also alert on low temperature. (Remember Winter Storm Uri in February 2021.)
- ☐ After an outage: confirm devices reconnected, the thermostat schedule is intact, and the lock is locked.
- ☐ Sign up for your city's emergency alerts and ERCOT's conservation notices.
- ☐ Secure outdoor cameras and solar panels before hail and high winds.

Utility rebates & thermostat programs (verified Oct 2026)

Oncor — Take A Load Off Texas® Retail Products Program

If **Oncor** is listed as the delivery company (TDU) on your electric bill, you can get **$65 off qualifying smart thermostats** through the Oncor Marketplace or at participating retailers like Home Depot and Lowe's.

- Homeowners **and renters with the owner's permission** can take part. Limit 2 thermostats per household.
- Marketplace prices when checked: Google Nest Thermostat $64.99, ecobee Essential $74.99, Nest Learning (4th gen) $214.99, Sensi Lite $24.99.
- Smart plugs and advanced power strips are discounted too (smart plugs limit 8 per household).
- ENERGY STAR lists the thermostat offer as valid 1/1/2026–12/31/2028, but Oncor notes most programs run January–November and can run out. Details: oncor.com.

TXU Energy — Connected Conservation (TXU customers only)

Enroll a compatible smart thermostat and get a one-time reward: **$50** in gift cards or a prepaid card, or **up to $150** toward energy-saving products. During high-demand events TXU may nudge your thermostat a few degrees — you can override any event.

- Compatible brands listed by TXU: certain Honeywell Home/Resideo, Amazon, and Sensi thermostats (Nest and ecobee weren't on the list when checked).
- One reward per household. Details: txu.com.

Other providers: Electricity in Texas is split between the delivery company (like Oncor) and your retail provider (who sends the bill). Some parts of Collin and nearby counties are served by electric cooperatives instead of Oncor. Check your bill, then check your provider's website — programs change often, and some reward you just for letting them adjust your thermostat during grid emergencies.

Stack your savings

Buy a qualifying thermostat at the Oncor discount → if your retail provider has a thermostat program that supports that brand, enroll it there too. Read each program's terms first.

06 Your 30-Day Setup Plan

One weekend-sized chunk per week. Don't rush it — a smart home set up right the first time is one you'll actually trust.

Week 1 · Foundation (Days 1–7)

- ☐ Pick your ecosystem (Section 1) and install its app on everyone's phone.
- ☐ Walk the house with your phone running a speed test: every room, the garage, the porch, the back yard.
- ☐ Fix Wi-Fi if needed (mesh system), set up the separate IoT network, change router passwords.
- ☐ Set up a password manager and turn on 2FA for every account.
- ☐ Reset anything the previous owner left behind. Change garage and door codes.
- ☐ Check thermostat wiring (photo of the wires) and whether Oncor is your delivery company.

Week 2 · Front door & security (Days 8–14)

- ☐ Install the video doorbell; set motion zones so it ignores the street.
- ☐ Install the smart lock; turn on auto-lock; create codes for family and a temporary one for guests.
- ☐ Mount outdoor and garage cameras; set privacy zones and notification schedules.
- ☐ Decide: local storage or a subscription? Cancel free trials you won't keep.

Week 3 · Comfort & energy (Days 15–21)

- ☐ Install the smart thermostat (or have it installed). Load the Texas settings from Section 5.
- ☐ Enroll in any utility or retail-provider thermostat program you qualify for.
- ☐ Add smart bulbs, plugs, and switches to the rooms you use every evening.
- ☐ Build three routines: **Good Morning**, **Leaving Home**, **Good Night**.

Week 4 · Protection & polish (Days 22–30)

- ☐ Place leak sensors: kitchen sink, dishwasher, fridge, washer, water heater, HVAC drain pan.
- ☐ Test smoke/CO alarms; add smart alarms or sound-detection alerts if you want phone notifications.
- ☐ Set up the nursery/kids' room items and kid-safety settings.
- ☐ Add the garage door controller and a "Leaving" routine that closes it and locks the door.
- ☐ Family walkthrough: show everyone how to lock, unlock, and override things without the app.
- ☐ Put a monthly 10-minute check on your calendar: updates, batteries, sensor tests.

Day 30 check

Can everyone in the house lock the door, adjust the temperature, and turn off the lights — with and without the app? If yes, you're done. Nice work.

07 Three Starter Budgets

Prices as of Oct 2026 at the store listed. Totals exclude tax, shipping, microSD cards, installation, and optional subscriptions. Thermostat prices assume the Oncor discount; add $65 if you don't qualify.

Starter · about $250 *Great for renters and first-month homeowners*		
Google Nest Thermostat (Oncor price)	Oncor Marketplace	$64.99
Kasa Matter Smart Plug 4-pack	Amazon	$49.99
Wyze Cam v4 (indoor or garage)	wyze.com	$44.98
Govee Wi-Fi Water Sensor 3-pack	Amazon	$43.99
WiZ Wi-Fi bulbs × 4 ($10.99 each)	wizconnected.com	$43.96
Total		**$247.91**

Core Homeowner · about $600 *Front door, comfort, leaks, and lights covered*		
ecobee Smart Thermostat Essential (Oncor price)	Oncor Marketplace	$74.99
eufy Video Doorbell E340	eufy.com	$169.99
eufy Smart Lock C30	eufy.com	$79.99
Lutron Caséta dimmer starter kit	Home Depot	$99.95
Kasa Matter Smart Plug 4-pack	Amazon	$49.99
Govee Wi-Fi Water Sensor 3-pack	Amazon	$43.99
Wyze Cam v4 × 2 ($44.98 each)	wyze.com	$89.96
Total		**$608.86**

Whole-Home · about $1,200 *Strong Wi-Fi, premium entry, and full coverage*		
TP-Link Deco X55 mesh Wi-Fi, 3-pack	Amazon	$169.99
Nest Learning Thermostat 4th gen (Oncor price)	Oncor Marketplace	$214.99
eufy Video Doorbell E340	eufy.com	$169.99
Aqara Smart Lock U100	aqara.com	$189.99
Philips Hue Essential kit (4 bulbs + Bridge)	philips-hue.com	$139.99
Lutron Caséta dimmer starter kit	Home Depot	$99.95
Kasa Matter Smart Plug 4-pack	Amazon	$49.99
Govee Wi-Fi Water Sensor 3-pack	Amazon	$43.99
eufy SoloCam S220 × 2 ($69.99 each)	Home Depot	$139.98
Total		**$1,218.86**

Add-ons worth considering: a voice speaker or display for your ecosystem ($79.99–$149), First Alert SC5 smart smoke & CO alarms ($129.95 each list), Chamberlain myQ garage control ($29.99), and microSD cards for Wyze/eufy local recording.

Want it done for you?

Some people love a weekend project. Others would rather spend Saturday at the lake. If that's you, **Texas Smart Home Solutions** will plan it, install it, secure it, and show your family how to use it. Every home is different, so we quote each install per project.

Service	What it covers
Smart Home Installation	Doorbells, cameras, smart locks, thermostats, lighting, plugs, speakers, and TV mounting — set up cleanly and tested before handoff.
Smart Home + Networking	Wi-Fi optimization, router upgrades, mesh networks, IoT network segmentation, and smart-device reliability fixes.
Technology Consulting	Planning for whole-home Wi-Fi, security cameras, home offices, media rooms, new construction, and future expansion.
Managed Smart Home Plans	Ongoing support: troubleshooting, checkups, priority scheduling, network health, and device recommendations.

- ☐ Owned by a U.S. Army veteran and based in Texas
- ☐ Enterprise IT, infrastructure, networking, and security experience
- ☐ Honest pricing and practical recommendations — we'll tell you what to skip, too
- ☐ Bring this guide: your marked-up checklist becomes our install plan

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