

SmartHomeWizards setup planner

Copy these prompts into your notes or onto paper. Start with a problem you want to solve, then check what you already own. You may not need to buy anything.

Choose your starting point

- Renting: Check your lease before changing fixtures or wiring. List portable options you can take with you when you move.
- Starting from scratch: Choose one room and one useful task. Set a spending limit before comparing products.
- Already own devices: Record their exact models and current apps. Try an existing schedule or routine before adding another hub or platform.

Room inventory

Repeat this record for each room you want to change.

Room and task

Existing device models and what already works

Who needs access, including physical controls

Installation constraints and permission needed

What would count as a useful improvement?

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Compatibility checklist

- Record your phone, operating system, control app and any existing hub or controller.
- For each proposed device, save the manufacturer's compatibility page for the exact model and region.
- Check the required connection type and whether a separate bridge, controller or subscription is needed for your intended feature.
- Mark each requirement as confirmed, unknown or incompatible. Resolve unknowns before purchasing.

Network and reliability checklist

- Check the device's supported Wi-Fi bands and security modes against your router settings.
- Test setup and control in the intended location before mounting the device permanently.
- Record which controls work without internet access and what happens after a power interruption, using the manufacturer's instructions.
- Confirm how everyone in the household can operate the device when the app is unavailable.

For network compatibility details, see the beginner setup guide , including its manufacturer notes on Wi-Fi security and device isolation.

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Budget worksheet

Use current quotes in your own currency. Leave unknown costs marked unknown; do not count them as zero.

Devices: quantity multiplied by unit price

Required hub, bridge or controller

Installation and accessories

Taxes and shipping

Monthly subscriptions multiplied by 12

Annual fees and expected consumables

First-year planned cost: add the amounts above

Spending limit and remaining unknown costs

This is a planning estimate, not a savings forecast. Avoid counting the same subscription as both a monthly and annual charge. Record any expected electricity-cost change separately.

Worked example: You want a living-room lamp to switch off at bedtime. If the lamp already supports a schedule in its current app, try that first. Record the model, confirm the schedule works for everyone who uses the room, and leave the purchase list empty if it solves the problem.