

ZDNET



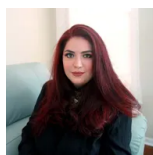
Updated on: February 11, 2025 at 11:24 AM PST

Home / Home & Office / Smart Home

The best smart home devices you can buy: Expert tested



From smart lights to smart speakers, I've tested the best smart home devices that can help make your life easier. Here are my top picks.



Written by **Maria Diaz**, Staff Writer

Reviewed by **Allison Jewell**

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What is the best smart home device right now? The best s



Best smart home device overall
Amazon Echo Show 8 (3rd gen)

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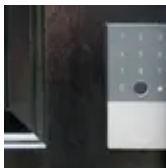
Best smart lighting device
Philips Hue Starter Kit

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Best smart thermostat
Nest Learning Thermostat (4th Gen)

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Best smart lock
Aqara U100 smart lock

[View now](#)



Best smart home security camera



Eufy Security EufyCam 3 and HomeBase 3 bundle

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Right now, creating a smart home is easier than ever, with thousands of devices selling the convenience of automation, voice control, and routine. These smart home devices have become more affordable and easier to install than in years past when having a smart home meant getting a professional installation team to your home and paying a hefty monthly membership.

**WE TAKE CARE
OF YOUR
NETWORK.**

SO YOU CAN TAKE
CARE OF YOUR
NEXT BIG IDEA.



T T-MOBILE
FOR BUSINESS

A simple online search for "video doorbell" yields hundreds of brands at very low prices. While the number of smart home devices on the market has driven prices down, it's also made it more difficult for consumers to determine which ones are the best for their home. ZDNET is here to help you choose the right one.

What is the best smart home device right now?


ZDNET's pick for the current best smart home device is the Echo Show 8, a smart display with Amazon Alexa that lets iOS and Android users get started with a smart home. It's a comprehensive device for experienced and entry-level smart home enthusiasts. Delivering the convenience of voice control via a virtual assistant, the Echo Show 8 features a powerful speaker and touch display while also functioning as a smart home hub with Zigbee, Matter, and Thread support.

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Galaxy S25 Ultra
Now Brief with Galaxy AI 🧠



Displays daily select information from select apps (some apps may require internet connection). Galaxy AI features by Samsung are free through 2025 and require Samsung account login.

Also: I used Amazon's Echo Show 21 as my smart home hub - and it's almost perfect

The best smart home devices of 2025

Amazon Echo Show 8 (3rd gen)

Best smart home device overall

[View now at Amazon](#)

[View now at Best Buy](#)

[View now at Target](#)

The 3rd-generation Amazon Echo Show is a great smart display and speaker combination for most smart home users. whether

...most smart home users, however.

Pros

show expert take 



Seniors: Say Bye To Expensive Internet if You Live In These Zip Codes

Philips Hue Starter Kit

Best smart lighting device

[View now at Amazon](#)

This starter kit has everything you need to make your lights smarter with Philips Hue. With two white and color smart bulbs and one Hue

Pros

- Millions of colors
- Dimming lights
- Instant-on option

show expert take 

Nest Learning Thermostat (4th Gen)

Best smart thermostat

[View now at Amazon](#)

The Nest Learning Thermostat has proven to be one of Google's best smart home products ever. With reliable performance and smart home

Pros

- Turns HVAC system down while away from home
- Learns from usage
- Includes a temperature sensor

Cons

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Experience the
magical moment
of letting go.

Explore Vehicles

Available driver-assist feature. Does not replace safe driving or driver's need to control the vehicle. Terms apply. See ford.com/bluecruise for details.

Aqara U100 smart lock

Best smart lock

[View now at Amazon](#)

Don't you wish you could unlock your front door

with your iPhone as easily as you can check out with Apple Pay?

Pros

- High interoperability
 - A lot of unlocking features
 - Inexpensive compared to others
-

show expert take 



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Eufy Security EufyCam 3 and HomeBase 3 bundle

Best smart home security camera

[View now at Amazon](#)

If you want to beef up your home security with a smart option, I can't recommend the EufyCam 3 and HomeBase 3 bundle enough. The three

Pros

- Packed with features
- No monthly fees
- Excellent ecosystem

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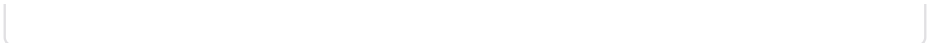
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[Explore Vehicles](#)

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What is the best smart home device?







Seniors Are Switching To \$10 Internet Plans




Which is the best smart home device for you?



"I'm so happy I could cry!" Seniors are being "blessed" with new benefits in 2025.

WalletJump



Other top smart home devices of 2024



BEST SMART SPEAKER

Sonos Era 100

The Sonos Era 100 is our pick for the best Sonos speaker and the best smart home speaker.

[View at Amazon](#)



BEST VIDEO DOORBELL

Eufy Security Video Doorbell E340

The subscription-free Eufy Security E340 video doorbell is my favorite doorbell camera right now. With package detection and two cameras (one facing visitors, the other facing the ground), I can see exactly when my packages were delivered and get alerts to pick them up before bedtime.

[View at Amazon](#)

Also: [The best video doorbells of 2025: Expert tested](#)

BEST SMART BULL DOG



BEST SMART PLUG

TP-Link Kasa smart plug

This Matter-compatible Kasa smart plug is the perfect addition to any smart home ecosystem and the best way to automate and set schedules for lights and fans.

[View at Amazon](#)

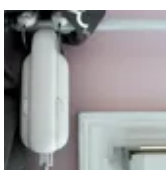


BEST ROBOT VACUUM

iRobot Roomba j7+

A smart home isn't complete without a robot vacuum's smart cleaning performance. The Roomba j7+ is ZDNET's top pick for the best robot vacuums.

[View at Amazon](#)



BEST SMART CURTAIN OPENER

SwitchBot Curtain 3

If you're looking for a great way to smarten up your window treatments, the SwitchBot Curtain 3 automatic curtain opener makes opening your curtains hands-free work.

[View at Amazon](#)



BEST SMART GARAGE DOOR OPENER



Meross smart garage door opener

The Meross smart garage door opener is a fan favorite because it is easy to integrate with Amazon Alexa, Apple HomeKit, Google Assistant, and Samsung SmartThings.

[View at Amazon](#)

Factors to consider when choosing smart home devices



Most homeowners don't  
use this to get rid of dust,
but did you know... [more](#)



How we test smart home devices





29 Coolest Gifts for This 2025

The Ultimate Guide to the Coolest Gifts in 2025

Consumerbags

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Are there alternative best smart home devices worth considering?



BEST SMART DISPLAY ALTERNATIVE

Google Pixel Tablet

The Google Pixel Tablet is a great smart display alternative to an Echo Show.

When charging, it turns into a smart display. This lets you control your Google Home devices, if that's your preferred ecosystem, as a smart display or with your voice by saying, 'Hey Google.'

[View at Amazon](#)

[View at Amazon](#)

BEST SMART LIGHT ALTERNATIVE

Lifx smart bulb

Lifx is a top smart light bulb alternative to Philips Hue. Because of its Wi-Fi connection, it doesn't require a hub and is compatible with Alexa, Google Home, and Apple HomeKit.

[View at Amazon](#)

BEST SMART THERMOSTAT

ALTERNATIVE

Google Nest Thermostat

The Google Nest Thermostat is not only one the best smart home device for thermostats, but it is a much more affordable alternative to the latest version.

[View at Amazon](#)

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Learn Our Process

ZDNET's reviewers spend weeks to months testing each product or service on this list, using them for both everyday tasks to more performance-intensive work. We aim to give you a view into how each option could fit into your life and workflow, and the pros and cons of their various features.

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Apple, Samsung, Google, and more
compared**

**The 5 best
choose th**

 **Editorial standards**

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