

Is Your Home Future-Ready?

Digital home entertainment systems, high-speed Internet access and computer networking are today's top home technologies. According to the Leviton Institute, there are five categories you should look at to determine how future-ready your home is. By answering the following questions, you can assess how your home rates as a "connected home".



A structured wiring system provides the backbone for today's multimedia home.

1) Home Entertainment

Do you have:

- Jacks throughout your home for video, high speed Internet and computer networking?
- Satellite TV?
- Multi-room in-wall wiring that drives in-wall or in-ceiling audio loudspeakers for home theater, music or paging/intercom functions?

2) Communications

Do you have:

- Telephone jacks throughout your home?
- A multi-line phone system that supports multiple extensions?
- An intercom system to page and speak to other household members.

3) Computer Networking and Internet Sharing

Do you have:

- A home area network (HAN) that lets you share information and peripherals with other family members?
- A broadband Internet connection such as a DSL, cable modem or direct broadcast satellite?

4) Home Security

Do you have:

- A home security system that sounds an alarm and reports to a central station?
- A closed circuit television system that distributes video signals from surveillance cameras in and around your home?

5) Comfort and Convenience

Do you have:

- A multi-room lighting control system that coordinates programmed lighting scenes?
- A home automation system that controls lights, appliances, heating, cooling and your security system?
- Energy management controls integrated with your home automation system to maximize energy efficiency?
- Remote controls for motorized window coverings? ?

Extra Credit — Structured Cabling

- Do you have special purpose jacks/outlets connected by high performance in-wall wires and cables to a central distribution box?

If you answered yes to the "extra credit" structured cabling category, your home is well outfitted for almost all future technologies.

Answering "yes" to all questions also means your home will command a higher resale value should you wish to sell it. A structured wiring system provides the backbone for today's multimedia home.

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