



Smart Home Devices: Privacy and Safety Basics

Set up helpful home technology while staying in control of access and alerts.

Before You Start

Keep your device charged · Use your usual Wi-Fi · Stay signed in to your own account

- 1 Before connecting a device, decide what problem it should solve and who needs access. A helpful device should not make the home harder to manage.
- 2 Use a strong, unique account password and enable two-step verification (an extra sign-in check) if offered. Keep the recovery email and phone number current.
- 3 Review who can view cameras, hear recordings, unlock a door, or receive alerts. Remove access when a household member, caregiver, or guest no longer needs it.
- 4 Place indoor cameras only where everyone understands they are present. Review recording, cloud-storage, and subscription settings before agreeing to a charge.
- 5 Keep the device and its app updated. If something looks unfamiliar, use the provider's official app or support site rather than a link from an email or message.

Official Resources: CISA — Secure Our World

When to Ask for Help: Before sharing access, adding a camera, or agreeing to a subscription.

Questions You Can Ask: Who can see or control this device? · Where are recordings stored? · How can I remove access later?

NOTES TO KEEP NEARBY
