

Comprehensive Smart Home Starter Checklist for Seniors – 2025

This comprehensive checklist is designed to help seniors and caregivers evaluate smart home starter kits based on ease of use, safety, functionality, and long-term value. Review each category and check off the features that are most important to your needs.



Voice Assistant Capabilities

- ☐ Supports natural language commands
- ☐ Works with Alexa or Google Assistant
- ☐ Customizable routines for reminders and automation
- ☐ Hands-free control of lights, thermostats, and devices



Device Setup & Usability

- ☐ Includes a setup guide or video tutorial
- ☐ Mobile app is easy to navigate
- ☐ No additional hub required (Hub-free option)
- ☐ Clear labeling and senior-friendly packaging



Senior Accessibility Features

- ☐ Large screen or font display for visibility
- ☐ Voice feedback and visual cues
- ☐ Emergency help or SOS options
- ☐ One-tap or simple control interface



Security & Monitoring

- ☐ Motion sensors and door/window contacts included
- ☐ Phone alerts for unusual activity
- ☐ Camera or video doorbell integration available
- ☐ Compatible with 24/7 monitoring services (optional)

Communication & Connection

- ☐ Video calling available (Echo Show, Nest Hub)
- ☐ Supports calling family through voice command
- ☐ Can display photo albums and messages
- ☐ Enables connection with caregivers or neighbors

Budget & Value

- ☐ Affordable upfront cost
- ☐ No mandatory subscription fees
- ☐ Energy savings potential (e.g., smart bulbs/thermostats)
- ☐ Upgradeable with additional smart devices later

Support & Maintenance



- ☐ Includes warranty or support plan
- ☐ Easy to reset or troubleshoot
- ☐ Customer support via phone or live chat
- ☐ Available how-to resources online (FAQ, tutorials)

Smart Home Starter Checklist for Seniors

Assess Your Needs

- ☐ Would you prefer voice control or using an app?
- ☐ How important are security alerts for you?
- ☐ How comfortable are you with installing new apps?

Hub required?

No	
+	
-	-

Choose Your Kit



- ☐ **Amazon Echo** Starter Kit
 - ◆ Echo Show for video chat, light
- ☐ **Google Nest** Starter Pack
 - ◆ Nest Hub for photos, smartbulbs
- ☐ **Ring Alarm** Security Kit
 - ◆ Keypad, door sensors, siren

	
Amazon Echo	Ring Alarm Security Kit
No	✓
+	✓

Get Ready for Setup

- ☐ Have your Wi-Fi name and password ready
- ☐ Charge or plug in all devices
- ☐ Install the app (Alexa, Google Home, or Ring)
- ☐ Remove any barriers around your router

Get Ready for Setup

-  Follow the app instructions to set up your kit
-  Use voice or mobile dashboard to control your devices

Click to learn more about each smart kit option



Check if your local tech store offers support for seniors