

# How to set up smart home technology

Setting up smart home technology can be surprisingly easy. Let's see how.

## Your smart home

First, let's see what's needed for a simple smart home setup:

- A smart speaker is essential. Even an inexpensive, small model such as the **Google Nest Mini** will do. This will let you set reminders, play internet radio, even get a weather report just by asking for it.
- A home internet connection is required.
- Your home internet plan should have plenty of data available if you're thinking of streaming music or video.
- Home Wi-Fi is also required, as most smart devices must connect to Wi-Fi.
- A mobile device such as a smartphone or tablet, which is connected to your Wi-Fi.
- A Google Account, Amazon or Apple account. These are free.



A smart speaker can be the heart of a simple smart home

## Choosing a voice assistant

There are several different types of voice assistant. Let's see what you should think about when choosing one for your home:

- All smart home systems work with a voice assistant. The main ones are **Google Assistant**, **Amazon Alexa** and **Apple Siri**. Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa are the two most common, with lots of different devices working with one or the other.

# How to set up smart home technology

- The different voice assistants do not work with each other. If you choose Google Assistant, all your smart home devices should be labelled **Works with Google Assistant**. If you choose Alexa, look for a **Works with Amazon Alexa** label. If you choose Siri, look for **Works with Apple HomeKit**.
- Many devices, such as smart switches, speakers and TVs, work with both Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa.

## The Google Home app

From this point on we'll be using the Google system as our example:

- Before you can use **Google Assistant** with your smart speaker, you have to set it up using the **Google Home app** on your mobile device. It will work on Android phones and tablets, iPhones and iPads, but not with computers.
- Google Home may already be on your Android device and you will already have an account from when you set up your phone or tablet. If it's not on your Android device, you can download it from **Google Play**.
- If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can install the **Google Home** and **Google Assistant** apps from the App Store. If you don't already have a Google account, you can create one using these apps.
- When **Google Home** is started and you've signed in, it will look for compatible smart devices in your home and help you connect them to your home Wi-Fi.



A smart home that uses Google Assistant needs the Google Home app on your mobile device

## Setting up a Google Nest Mini

Let's see how Google Home sets up a new Google Nest Mini speaker:

1. Start up **Google Home** on your phone or tablet and make sure that you are signed into your Google account.
2. Plug the **Google Nest Mini** into power, as shown in the card inside the box.
3. Make sure your mobile device is connected to your home Wi-Fi, otherwise it won't be able to talk to the Google Nest Mini.
4. **Google Home** will search for any new smart speaker.

# How to set up smart home technology

5. When **Google Home** finds the speaker, it will guide you through the setup and ask some questions along the way, including the name of the room where the speaker is located. That might be **Kitchen** or **Family Room**. It's convenient to label different speakers for the rooms they're in.
6. It may also ask you to say a phrase, or "**OK Google**" several times. This is to train the speaker so that it can understand your voice.

## Getting the most from your new smart speaker

A smart speaker can do quite a lot for you. Let's see a few commands that work with **Google Assistant**, and how to make them work most reliably:

- "**OK Google, what's the weather like?**" It's best to leave a brief pause after "**OK Google**" until the lights on the speaker appear, so that you know it's listening.
- "**OK Google, set a reminder for tomorrow to pay the internet bill.**" If you don't say a time, Google Assistant will assume that you mean 8 am. But you can say, for example, "**tomorrow at 9 am**".
- "**OK Google, play ABC jazz.**" Google will stream the ABC Jazz radio station through the speaker.

OK Google, what's the weather like?



Right now in Yeppoon it's 18 degrees and partly cloudy.

Google Assistant can answer almost any question you ask it