

The A to Z of Smart Security



Smart security is awesome, but there's a lot of jargon to get through. This A-Z guide is here to help.

Although smart security makes taking care of your home more efficient, there are a lot of new words and phrases to get your head around.

To get you acquainted with some of this new-fangled language, we've put together a handy A to Z reference guide. Have a browse through, and get fluent in the smart tech lingo.

A is for Alexa

Alexa is Amazon's voice assistant. It comes bundled with the Echo smart speakers, and you can get it on most mobiles phones and tablets, too.

B is for burglar alarm

A common form of domestic security, burglar alarms now come in smart form, too. All the classic protection, with stuff like remote access and wireless connectivity added in.

C is for camera

Thanks to smart tech, getting security fitted at home is easy. Place it somewhere out of reach and access it from your phone any time, anywhere.

D is for doorbell

The humble doorbell has been supercharged in the smart world. Think integrated cameras and notifications to your phone whenever the doorbell is pressed.

E is for extender

Many smart security kits come with optional extenders. These are little modules that increase the range of your system—perfect for larger homes.

F is for fitting

Unlike traditional security systems, smart alarms and devices are mostly wireless. That means, in many cases, you can fit them yourself with just a smartphone and screwdriver.

G is for Google Assistant

Google Assistant is—you've guessed it—a voice assistant that can be accessed from your phone or tablet. It can do everything from telling you the weather to locking your door.

H is for hub

Smart home systems generally rely on a central hub to work correctly. Think of it as the brain of your smart home. Most smart security alarms will feature an integrated hub as part of the package.

I is for IFTTT

IFTTT stands for 'If This Then That'. It's a web service that lets you build up routines across your devices. For example: 'If I switch off my smart alarm, then open the smart door lock'.

J is for jamming detection

Some smart alarms (such as the Yale Smart Home Alarm Kit) feature jamming detection. This causes the alarm to go off if it detects anyone trying to jam the signal.

K is for keyless entry

The majority of smart locks on the market let you open your front door without a key. Instead, you can use your smartphone or a fob to gain entry.

L is for locks

Where traditional locks were totally mechanical affairs, smart locks can integrate into a smart home system giving you remote access and the ability to monitor activity.

M is for mobile app

Most smart security products can be operated via an app. Sometimes this a specialist app that must be downloaded, or a smart assistant such as Google Assistant or Amazon Alexa.

N is for night vision

Night vision used to be an incredibly expensive option, only available on high-end professional alarms. Now, thanks to smart tech, you can get it on many smart cameras and even doorbells.

O is for open-source

Some smart tech products offer open-source programming. This is nothing to worry about for most people, but if you're a real computer whizz, it'll mean you can customise your product to the nth degree.

P is for PIR

PIR stands for 'passive infrared', and it is present in motion detectors (those little white boxes that set off the alarm when they detect movement). Smart tech means that many PIR detectors operate wirelessly, making them easier to fit.

R is for remote access

Thanks to mobile tech, you can now gain access to your smart security system anywhere in the world. So, if you need to unlock your front door to let the cleaner in when you're on holiday, it's as easy as tapping on an app.

S is for siren box

The classic alarm siren box still acts as a great visual deterrent against home intrusion. When you invest in a smart alarm, be sure to get one with a bright, unmissable external box.

T is for two-way audio

Two-way audio is fitted to many smart cameras and doorbells. It lets you converse with anyone standing at your front door—even if you're on the other side of the world.

V is for voice activation

Smart assistants, such as Apple's Siri or Alexa from Amazon, let you control products around the home simply by using your voice. It makes controlling your home easier and more convenient.

W is for Wi-Fi

Although the coming of 5G might make wireless connection faster than ever before, for most people a good Wi-Fi connection at home is still the vital core of any smart security system.

Y is for Yale

The famous security company has made a big effort to move into the world of smart tech. As such, it is one of the few companies that combines traditional security know-how with modern smart tech capabilities.

Z is for Z-Wave and Zigbee

Z-Wave and Zigbee are two different ways for your smart security products to speak to each other. They are alternatives to Wi-Fi—so if you've already got loads of products connected to Wi-Fi, it might be worth looking into these.

Where next?

So, now you're up to speed on all the jargon you probably want to find out more, right? Well, you're in luck. We've got a whole load of resources available, right **here**.