

# Five things you need to know before you invest in home automation.



Control<sup>4</sup>  
Advanced Guide



## 1. Do you have the right home for automation?

It's surprising how many homeowners don't ever consider automating their home, either because they think they can't afford it or they think it will be too difficult to install in an existing home.

This couldn't be further from the truth. There is no need to plan around new construction to get what you want in an automation system. Home automation systems offered by Control4 can be installed in all types of homes, from the newest, most modern houses to those that have been standing for years.

And with Control4, you can start small and dream big. Your system can grow with your needs and your budget, from a basic system to a fully automated home.

## 2. Determine what you want to automate

Consider your lifestyle. Ask yourself what automated solutions would make your life easier and more pleasant. Do you want to get rid of the stack of remotes for all your audio-visual equipment? Do you want the ability to listen to your music collection virtually anywhere in your house? Do you want all of the lights in your house to go off when you leave? Do you want to be able to check on your home from anywhere in the world to make sure it's secure?

Whether wired or wireless, you can automate practically any electronic device in and around your home. You can automate your swimming pool or spa, inside and outside lights, electronic gates, sprinkler system, garage doors, music, movies, television, heating and cooling, security system, door locks, security cameras, and on and on. The possibilities are virtually endless.



### 3. You'll need the help of a professional—and that's a good thing

While Control4 home automation solutions are simple enough for everyone in your house to use, your system will be a complex design, linking multiple devices in your home to make it possible for them to communicate over a network. Naturally, this is the kind of work that requires a professional with the tools, training and experience to understand how to get everything working together. We call this professional a Control4 dealer. Certified by Control4 after rigorous training, your dealer is equipped to work closely with you, from designing and installing your system to teaching everyone in the house how to use it. Your dealer will also provide ongoing support and upgrades after the system is up and running.

A Control4 dealer will be happy to show you sample systems at his/her place of business or perhaps even take you on a tour of existing installations. For a detailed list of certified dealers in your area, visit our dealer locator.

[www.control4.com/dealers/locator/](http://www.control4.com/dealers/locator/)

### 4. Evaluate your home network

While Control4 automation can be installed in any dwelling, the strength of your network and wiring is extremely important. The type of wiring recommended for a home automation system is called “structured wiring”—a wiring foundation that provides an effective communications infrastructure for home networking and telecommunications.

With new construction, plans can be made in advance so you can figure out where you want all of your Ethernet connections to be, and you may want to run additional cabling throughout your home for future expansion. With an existing home, the installer will want to minimize the number of holes that will need to be cut in the walls.

But that doesn't mean you're severely limited if you have an existing home. There are many ways to wire an existing home, and because many Control4 devices are wireless, you're not restricted by wires running in your walls. Your dealer can help you come up with the best solutions, depending on your situation. At the very least, you will need one or more Ethernet cables and an Internet connection. Your dealer can assist you with your wiring needs.

## 5. Expect the Unexpected

As soon as your new home automation system is in place, you might notice there are opportunities to reduce your energy usage and potentially save some money. Here are just a few possibilities:

- **Lights:** Use Control4 dimmers, switches and keypads to lower the light levels throughout the home by 20%. You won't even notice the difference, but this small adjustment can save money on your monthly electricity bill.
- **Thermostat:** Install and program a Control4 thermostat to automatically adjust to more energy-efficient settings when you go to bed or leave for work. This can quickly add up to significant money and energy savings.
- **Apps:** Use apps that work with your Control4 system to help you monitor energy use. Knowing exactly when, where, and how you're consuming energy is one of the most important things you can do to trim the dollars off your power bill every month.

