

The Home Technology Budget Worksheet

Independent planning ranges for a fully integrated home of roughly 4,000 sq ft — installed prices including equipment, wire, labor, and programming. Larger homes scale up; use these to sanity-check any proposal before you sign it. Ranges are planning guidance, not quotes.

System	Essential	Elevated	Ultra	Your Notes
Whole-Home Audio	\$8k – 16k	\$18k – 40k	\$45k – 110k	
Home Theater / Media Room	\$15k – 30k	\$35k – 75k	\$90k – 250k	
Lighting Control	\$12k – 28k	\$35k – 80k	\$100k – 260k	
Automated Shades	\$8k – 18k	\$22k – 50k	\$60k – 150k	
Networking & Wi-Fi	\$4k – 9k	\$12k – 28k	\$35k – 90k	
Security & Surveillance	\$6k – 14k	\$18k – 40k	\$50k – 120k	
Control & Integration	\$10k – 22k	\$28k – 65k	\$80k – 200k	
Access Control & Intercom	\$3k – 8k	\$10k – 24k	\$30k – 70k	
Climate Integration	\$3k – 7k	\$9k – 20k	\$25k – 60k	
Outdoor & Landscape AV	\$8k – 18k	\$22k – 50k	\$60k – 180k	

Tier guide — Essential: clean, reliable, well-integrated. Elevated: premium gear, more zones, deeper automation.

Ultra: reference-grade, no compromises. Personalized ranges: avxdesigns.com/tools/cost-estimator

RULES OF THUMB

- Integrated technology on custom new construction commonly lands in the mid-single-digit % of build cost.
- The control layer is usually 15–25% of the technology budget — the systems it controls are the rest.
- Wiring is cheap before drywall and brutal after. Over-wire now; thank yourself for a decade.

BEFORE YOU SIGN ANY PROPOSAL — ASK THESE

- ☐ Is there a written design, or only a priced equipment list?
- ☐ Was the scope competitively bid — or is this the only number you'll ever see?
- ☐ What happens to the price if you remove the rooms you're unsure about?
- ☐ Are programming and commissioning line-itemed, or buried in hardware prices?
- ☐ Who owns the documentation, network credentials, and system code at the end? (Answer: you should.)
- ☐ Is there a written scope of what 'done' means, verified at a walkthrough?

BUDGET PLANNER

Home size (sq ft):

Systems that matter most to us:

Systems we can live without:

Target all-in technology budget:

Quotes received so far (total):

Holding a quote already? Have it reviewed — free.

We read integrator proposals line by line and tell you what's padded, what's missing, and how it benchmarks — before you sign. We're consultants only: no equipment sales, no dealer commissions.

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