

Tips to Protect Your Smart Devices

Smart devices in the home are more popular than ever. And while these items can make our lives easier, they are also a haven for would-be hackers. Use these tips to help protect your devices from being hacked!



Before You Buy

- ▶ Look up reviews from reputable sources such as Consumer Reports.
- ▶ Check to see what services warranties cover.
- ▶ Use caution when purchasing. Remember, if it's too good a deal to be true, it probably is!



Protect Your Network and Passwords

- ▶ Choose a Power Over Ethernet (technology that lets network cables carry electrical power) over a wireless connection.
- ▶ Hide your network from view by selecting that option in your router's settings menu.
- ▶ Use a password manager like Dashlane or LastPass.¹ Your master password should be very strong and unique. Don't use default logins. Hackers love these!
- ▶ Use two-factor authentications.
- ▶ Don't ignore upgrades! The inconvenience of waiting for an update is far less than dealing with a compromised network.



Turn Off Items When Not In Use

- ▶ Consider disabling certain features such as your microphones.
- ▶ Unplug things like Google Home or Echo when you are not using them.



When It's Time For Something New

If you are trading in a device, be sure to wipe it clean of all your information by using the factory reset.