

## Making life more comfortable, ecological and secure.



Smarter control and automation can make your new home more enjoyable and convenient while reducing its environmental impact. But as with everything at the heart of the build, it requires some careful thought at the early stages.

At WebBrick Systems we work closely with self-builders, helping them to get the best out of home automation. Every project is different, but the approaches and disciplines that make them successful are much the same. From all our experiences, we have drawn up what we think are the most important considerations in making home automation a dream come true in your self-build.

### 1. Explore the possibilities

What do you want from your home automation? Is proper management of heating and lights your goal or do you want an integrated system of surveillance, security, communications and entertainment? The possibilities are tremendous, so tap into the expertise of home automation professionals – usually manufacturers and installers – who can open your eyes to what can be achieved.

Although home automation technologies are not all new, the way in which they can be applied is often innovative. So the more you work through ideas, the better home automation is likely to serve your family.

### 2. Start planning now

You don't need to finalise every detail on day one, but it makes sense to work out what you want long before you finalise your building plans. For example, although home automation equipment is generally compact, you do need to allocate some accessible space for it.

If you are unsure of your architect or project manager's experience with these kinds of systems, put them in touch with your chosen home automation installer as soon as you can.

# A home automation checklist

Home automation isn't something that you can install at the last minute. If you want to benefit from flexible, future-proof control and monitoring in and around your home, you need to plan it carefully and design it into your new home from an early stage.



## 3. Budget carefully

Using WebBrick systems, home automation is within the reach of almost all self-builders. Our wiring, interfaces and components all comply with open standards, so you can pick and mix according to your priorities.

However, budgeting for the wiring and other aspects of home automation is beyond the experience of most electricians. All WebBrick Systems accredited installers will be happy to help with this task. Call us for details of your nearest installer.

Now is probably your only opportunity to install the wiring and infrastructure for home automation. So if budget overruns might be a risk in your project then talk to your installer about which elements are essential and which could be held back to a future date.

## 4. Think to the future

If building your dream home is stretching your budget, then consider starting with just the basics of home automation: standards-compliant infrastructure that can be built upon over time.

No matter what your budget, we recommend that you develop a bigger vision for home automation. This will help you run cabling out to all the right places and with sufficient capacity to meet your future needs.

Make sure that your contract stipulates clear labelling and a wiring schedule from your installer. That way, when you add new equipment, sensors or other devices a few years down the line, you won't be left guessing.

## 5. Choose the right installer

WebBrick home automation systems are open and readily configurable, so you are not tied to your installer forever, as you would be with a traditional system.

However you should still choose wisely: An installer who shares your vision is likely to be a tremendous source of inspiration and will have the skills to make your home function just the way you want it.

What's more, your installer can play an invaluable role during the build, helping you avoid practical pitfalls and identifying the most cost-effective ways of achieving the required results.

## 6. Help the installation run smoothly

WebBrick Systems selects installers for their ability to keep projects running smoothly. For example they will work closely with the project manager to plan requirements during the first and second fix.

They will also apply their practical experience to avoid problems with tradespeople who are not used to working around data cables.

Your installer will also help you build appropriate levels of redundancy into your cabling, so if any damage does occur then it can be quickly resolved at the testing stage.

## 7. Hand-over and enjoy

When you move into your new home there will be a great deal to explore and enjoy. You will probably find that a quick familiarisation session with your installer is all it takes to have everything in the house running smoothly.

However with a little imagination you will soon think of extra ways in which the system could save you time and energy. You will probably want to add 'scenes' to optimise heat and lighting for specific activities such as exercising or studying.

This is the perfect time for your installer to return and show you the more advanced capabilities of your system. Because WebBrick systems makes configuration so easy, you will find you have precise control of every aspect of your home automation in no time.

To explore the reality of affordable, future-proof automation in your new home call us on:

+44 (0) 1635 897 301  
or email: [info@webbricksystems.com](mailto:info@webbricksystems.com)

