

GET WIRED

ON THE

JADE GAILBERGER

When it comes to home automation, many questions can arise, like why should I automate my home? What are my options? How big will my budget need to be?

We spoke to Sam Hart from SA Home Automation for the top considerations.

What are the options when it comes to home automation?
Sam Hart: For years, the only option when it came to home automation was to run additional wiring throughout your home that led to a central controller.

This obviously made installing a home automation system in an existing home very difficult, especially old homes with single brick internal walls. The materials and labour were also costly, and when the automation system was obsolete you were left with a lot of unused wiring in the walls.

That's where the benefits of wireless systems come in. They don't require any

Installing a home automation system need not be a daunting prospect

additional control wires and can be easily installed, removed or upgraded into any home. Although original wireless systems were slightly unreliable in comparison to wired, most new wireless have been significantly improved.

Do I need a big budget?

SH: The biggest thing that stops most people from looking into a home automation system is thinking it must be excessively expensive. This is not always true. Certain brands of home automation can cost well into the tens of thousands for a fully installed system.

However, many of the new wireless brands are aiming to bring a more affordable option to home automation. A fully installed system to



control an average sized home could cost as little as \$4000 and can often be installed by a regular electrician.

However, Sam does recommend researching the capabilities of the system you intend to install.

"You'll find that a cheaper home automation system can sometimes exceed the capabilities of a more expensive one," he says.

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Client review, productreview.com.au



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It is a good feeling

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from A to Z their service and staff where there all the way but most important is the finished product, in one word QUALITY. I never felt like I was just another contract to build, they treated me as a person and they never lost that respect for me as a client. I would recommend Format Homes. Thank you to all the team at Format Homes.

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BUTTON



curtains, blinds and appliances, airconditioners, irrigation systems, home entertainment systems, security cameras and more. Quite often the most versatile systems are also the cheapest.

Do I want a system aimed at DIY or one that can only be touched by licensed installers?

SH: You will find many types of home automation systems on the market, such as Clipsal, C-Bus, Crestron, RTi or Philips Dynalite. But they can only be installed or modified by a licensed installer.

This means if you want to make a change to your system, such as your porch light coming on when your roller door opens, it will require a licensed technician to come out and make the change.

This suits some people who do not want to touch their system for fear of breaking it. But there are a number of tech-savvy people who like to fiddle, making changes to their system themselves.

For these sorts of people, a system aimed at DIY such as Z-Wave or Zigbee may be a better option.

Do I have to automate the whole home at once?

SH: Most people who get a home automation system seem to start with the home theatre. That usually happens by default because people want that 'wow' factor.

At the last job I did, we started with the home theatre then moved to the hallway, kitchen, outdoor roller blinds and ensuite – that's the beauty of wireless home automation. You can dip your toe in with a small installation to see if you like it, then simply add to it as you go along.

WINTER SOLUTIONS

The worst thing about winter is coming home to a cold house after a long day and having been caught in the rain.

But many home automation systems can pair with climate controllers so you can turn on your home heating when you leave the office or from anywhere in the world with tablet-compatible controllers.

Blind and curtain motor controllers are also available so the windows automatically close if it starts to rain.



Kohler's Moxie Showerhead and Wireless Speaker, from \$290, Routleys, 8291 3000, routleysonline.com.au
The Moxie pairs to Bluetooth and plays up to seven hours of music. The sound is amazing and the removable speaker means you can take it out of the shower too!

LIGHT UP

Nikles Pearl Luce showerhead, \$841, and arm, \$210, Reece, reece.com.au
From Swiss shower specialist Nikles' range of innovative showerheads, the Pearl Luce has LED lighting for ambience and you can vary the shower spray from the unique round showerhead. Very cool.

SMART BATHROOMS

A new twist on technology means singing in the shower or bath doesn't mean you need to listen to the sound of your own voice. Listen to your fav beats via bluetooth technology. Plus, there's integrated ambient lighting – and even the toilet is getting smart



SMART TOILETS

Toilets are becoming more intuitive – think remote control functions, including washing and drying capabilities and even a night light. Roca Inspira toilet, POA, Reece, reece.com.au
Roca The Gap toilet, POA, Reece, reece.com.au
Features a rimless pan, free of grooves or gaps, for a superior clean and better hygiene.



Kaldewei Soundwave bath audio system, from \$1435. Available through Routleys.

A great
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lived in style
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Lindsay 3e from \$86,800 similar on display at Victor Harbor



McCubbin 2 Storey from \$154,600 on display at Pooraka

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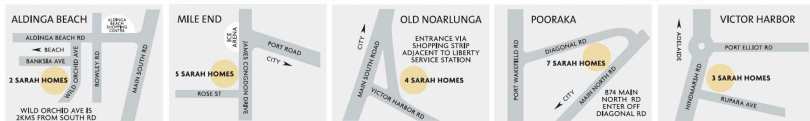
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