

Everything Home & Yard

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Connected Home Conveniences

How technology is improving daily living

By FAMILY FEATURES EDITORIAL SYNDICATE INC.

For busy families juggling to keep up with the pace of life, technology brings convenience and peace of mind to home life, making things easier for all of us. At the touch of a button, new technologies meet the needs of busy families who benefit from thoughtful, technological shortcuts throughout the house.

In the Home

It is now possible to control lighting throughout the interior and exterior of your home using your smartphone. With the proper bulbs, in-home Wi-Fi network and an app on your phone or tablet, you can control lights from anywhere and even schedule lights to turn off and on at intervals to give the appearance that someone is home. You'll never have to enter a dark house again when you use lights with geofencing technology, which recognizes when you pull in the driveway and turns lights on automatically.

Similarly, you can automate and control your home's temperature from



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

your smartphone or device. Although many thermostats allow you to drop temperatures while you're away at work for the day, options such as the Nest Learning Thermostat and Honeywell Lyric take climate management to a whole new level, learning your schedule and adjusting temperatures automatically.

Motorized drapes not only add a stylish enhancement to your windows, they help keep dawn at bay and your privacy

intact through smartphone control. A variety of options allow you to customize settings based on needs, such as blocking daylight, obscuring valuables from outside view, managing the impact of UV rays on your possessions or regulating solar heat.

In the Garage

Peace of mind that the garage door is closed and the home is secure comes in the palm of your hand with the Chamberlain Wi-Fi Garage Door Opener and MyQ Garage smartphone app. The first garage door opener with Wi-Fi built

in lets you open and close your garage from anywhere and receive alerts to your phone every time the door has opened, closed or been left open. And if you already have a working garage door opener, you can add this same smartphone connectivity to nearly any garage door with MyQ Garage. Learn more at www.chamberlain.com.

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