Smart house: The latest tools in home safety technology.

It’s easy to imagine a world without home safety technology… because it wasn’t that long ago. Before the innovations we have now, security was simpler. Everyone had a helpful neighbor who was willing to lend a watchful eye. And for added safety, there were a few foolproof strategies (like leaving a light on).

However, in a short time, we’ve come incredibly far. (After all, intruders are getting smarter. Homes should, too.)

People now have the power to protect their homes in ways they never thought possible – all through their phones, tablets and computers.

So, if you want to make your home more secure, make it smarter. Get started with these five high-tech tools:

- **Smart doorbell** – What if you could get a notification every time someone approached your front door? With a smart doorbell, you can. Thanks to its ability to instantaneously record HD video, you can see exactly who’s at your door and what they’re doing. You’ll be able to know what time your kids come home, when your packages are delivered and if someone suspicious is on your property. And if you invest in home safety technology with audio capabilities, you’ll be able to talk to them, too. (We’d be willing to bet that would scare someone off.)

- **Smart lock** – Who would’ve guessed that the key to home security isn’t a key at all. Today, there

are two types of smart locks, and both are beneficial. Choose whether you want to control the lock with a 9-digit keypad or a simple smartphone app. If you go with the latter, you'll be able to send a "virtual key" to guests and other visitors (like repair people) so they can enter on their own. Plus, you'll get insights as to what key was used when, so you'll have a record of who comes and goes.

- **Smart lights** – With smart lights, you can control every bulb in your home from an app – whether you're nearby or not. (It's perfect for when you're pulling out of the driveway and realize you left your bedroom light on.) Ultimately, they make lighting incredibly easy. But, they also offer some security. Most smart lights can be programmed to turn on and off at certain times. Or, they can learn your daily lighting habits and operate automatically while you're away.

- **Smart detector** – Now, there's a smarter way to protect your family (and your home). With a smart detector, you'll know as soon as there's smoke or carbon monoxide in the air, by way of an alarm and a notification sent to your smartphone. And most importantly, you'll know whether it's smoke or CO – and where it's coming from.

- **Smart surveillance** – If you have children or pets, you may have thought about using home video cameras to keep an eye on them. And while it's wonderful to have a live feed you can watch remotely, that's not all it can be used for. With smart surveillance cameras, you'll also be notified if an intruder is in your home. Sensors will detect a break-in through glass doors or windows, then show you where that person is, so you can alert your local authorities.

And of course, after your house is supported by the latest home safety technology, consider your latest home insurance policy. If you're not completely confident in your coverage, talk to an expert.