

# Rate Your Home's Technology with the TechHome™ Rating System



To help you evaluate and compare your home's technological capabilities, the Consumer Electronics Association has developed the TechHome™ Rating System.

If you are interested in building, buying or upgrading a home with the latest technologies, use this simple system to measure the technology value of your home.

Determine the TechHome Rating of your home by filling out the enclosed single-page form and following the scoring instructions on page 3. The higher your home rates, the more easily it can support the latest technologies.

#### **New Ways to Improve the Value of Your Home:**

- Evaluate your home's technological capabilities
- Learn how to upgrade to support the latest technologies

#### **5 Categories to Rate Your Home's Technology:**

- Home Entertainment
- Communications
- PC Networking and Internet Sharing
- Home Security
- Home Comfort & Convenience

#### **Easy to Use:**

- Fill out the enclosed form
- Follow the scoring instructions on page 3



#### **Visit [www.CE.org/techhomerating](http://www.CE.org/techhomerating):**

- Download a free copy of the TechHome Rating System form and instructions
- Search our nationwide database to find qualified installers in your area

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# Using the CEA TechHome™ Rating System

The TechHome Rating System is designed to let you rate the technological infrastructure present in a home across five categories. The final TechHome Rating will be a number between one and ten, with ten being the most technologically sophisticated.

To rate a home, put a check in the first column—marked “Check Marks”—for each system present in the home. Count the number of checkmarks under each category, and place that number on the line marked “total.”

The Number of Rooms Column and the Comments Column are for information purposes only and do not affect the final TechHome Rating.

Please note that there is a Bonus Category (Structured Wiring) that can qualify the home for additional points.

To calculate the final TechHome Rating add the total number of check marks in all five categories and the bonus category for a total of no more than 20. Divide this number by two and round any decimals of five or above to the next higher whole number. The result is your TechHome Rating.

## Home Entertainment

- **Cable TV (Jacks)**—Wall plates/jacks with a threaded “F” connector commonly used to distribute a video signal from a VCR, cable television service or other video source to televisions over coaxial cable. These coaxial cables and jacks also can provide high-speed Internet connectivity and PC networking services.
- **Satellite TV (Small Dish or Large Dish)**—Small dish or Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) is a subscription service that uses high-powered satellites to broadcast a digital TV signal to small 18” dish antennas. Large dish satellite TV, or a C-Band satellite system, uses lower powered satellites to transmit an analog signal to larger dishes.
- **In-Wall Speakers Installed**—Audio loudspeakers recessed in walls or ceilings, typically as part of a home theater or whole house audio system.
- **Multi-Room In-Wall Audio/Video Wiring**—Wiring inside the walls that could drive detached, in-wall or in-ceiling audio loudspeakers located in another part of a room or in other rooms in the house for home theater, music or paging/intercom functions.
- **Home Theater Pre-wire**—Concealed speaker wires that could drive detached, in-wall or in-ceiling audio loudspeakers located to provide front left, center and right main channels, at least two side or rear channels and a subwoofer.

## Communications

- **Telephone Extensions/Jacks**—Any jack that provides access to telephone services from inside or outside of the home. Among the many types of telephone jacks in use, wall plates with the familiar square, four-pin RJ-11 jack are the most common.

## PC Networking and Internet Sharing

- **Ethernet Local Area Network (LAN)**—A network of personal computers and peripheral devices configured to share information within the home. Ethernet is the most common computer network and is usually characterized by RJ-45 jacks.
- **Optical Fiber or Other Network**—An optical fiber, or fiber optic, network refers to the high-speed transmission of data to the home as light pulses along a glass or plastic wire or fiber.

- **High-Speed or Broadband Internet Access**—A connection to the Internet that transfers data faster than a traditional telephone modem (dial-up) connection. The most common services are digital subscriber line (DSL), cable modems or direct broadcast satellite (DBS).
- **Digital Subscriber Line (DSL)**—A dedicated digital high-speed broadband connection that is leased from the local phone company to provide a high bandwidth, always-on Internet connection.
- **Cable Modem**—A device that provides high speed Internet access through the local cable television system.
- **Satellite Dish-Based Internet**—A high-speed connection that uses a small dish antenna and digital transceiver to connect to the Internet.

## Home Security

- **Home Security System**—A system designed to detect the presence of an intruder or other hazard in a residence or surrounding area. Most are professionally installed, will sound an alarm at the site, and report to a central station for a monthly fee.
- **CCTV Cameras**—Closed circuit television (CCTV) systems distribute video signals from surveillance cameras to monitors within the home.

## Home Comfort, Convenience and Energy Management

- **Multi-Room Lighting Control System**—These systems coordinate large numbers of lights without using the switches in each room. Programmable lighting scenes can be activated automatically or from remote controllers, touch screens, keypads or telephones.
- **Home Automation System**—Coordinates and controls a home’s appliances and systems including, lighting, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), and security systems so they can work together to improve the safety, comfort and convenience of a home.
- **Programmed Thermostat or Multi-Zone HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning)**—A temperature management system that automatically adjusts the temperature based on time of day and/or can maintain different temperature settings in separate parts of the house.
- **Energy Management System**—A system that manages the energy consumption of a home’s systems and appliances to maximize their operational efficiency.
- **Window Covering Controls**—These devices, which may include a motorized track mounted above the windows, open and close shades and drapes.

## Structured Wiring System

A multipurpose system of in-wall wire and cable that can be continuously reconfigured to provide updated services to the homeowner. A consortium of home networking organizations created the Wiring America’s Homes (WAH) program to define and promote structured wiring based on an established industry standard (TIA 570-A). The WAH Minimum Wiring Recommendation requires the presence of one four-pair UTP Cat 5 cable and; one RG-6 coaxial cable to key rooms in the house, including home office/den/study, kitchen, family/great room, and each bedroom. All cables are strung in a star formation to the distribution box. A distribution box is a stand-alone piece of equipment containing distribution devices for voice, data and video. Most structured wiring systems are professionally installed and all should meet industry standards. For more information visit [www.connectedhome.org](http://www.connectedhome.org).

**TechHome Rating System produced by:**



**TechHome Rating System endorsed by:**



Consumer Electronics Association 2500 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA 22201-3834 USA (703) 907-7600 main (703) 907-7601 fax www.CE.org

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