

**McKean County Association of Realtors®**  
**30 Fraley Street**  
**Kane, PA 16735**

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## **Smart Home Technology**

**MCKEAN COUNTY** – Smart home technology is becoming increasingly popular. But is it worth it?

“Updating a home with smart home technology can add value and safety features for consumers. Additionally, most smart home products can ultimately help save money, such as smart thermometers, which adjust temperatures accordingly,” said McKean County Association of Realtors® President Kathleen Obermeyer. “And smart appliances, like laundry machines and dishwashers, help reduce water waste and use less energy.”

As consumers look to age in their own homes, smart technology can help. “Smart home features can be life-changing for people,” she said. “Items like smart lights and blinds can transform a living environment to make it more accessible for people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.”

However, if consumers are concerned about privacy, some smart home products may be a turnoff to potential buyers.

“Understandably, it makes some people nervous about what kind of data some of these products are collecting, but with thorough research, along with using caution, these smart home products have generally proven to be quite safe,” Obermeyer added. “Actually, many of these products can offer additional security for a home.”

Regardless, it doesn’t appear as if smart home products are going away any time soon. A recent study found that consumers are expected to spend more than \$20 billion on smart home products this year, and that by 2022, more than half of all households will have smart home technology.

“As with any kind of large purchase, it’s important to do research and know what options are available to you,” Obermeyer said.