

## Smart Homes

BRING YOUR HOME INTO THE 21ST CENTURY WITH INTELLIGENT TECHNOLOGY

Many self-builders want to future-proof their homes by incorporating technology that will aid the occupiers' lifestyles. There has been a lot of innovation in this area over the past few years, and not a little confusion. Different technologies offering different possibilities make it a difficult area to summarise. Most people still think of smart homes in terms of laying data cabling around the house, much as it has been done in offices for decades. But it is now also possible to transfer data over the conventional power lines and, increasingly, Wi-Fi – which operates without wires at all – is becoming an accepted standard for broadband, so many of the commonly held assumptions about data cabling are being challenged.

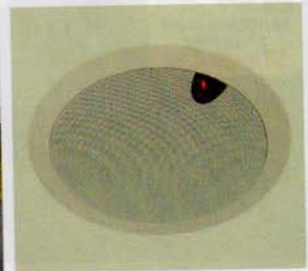
The standard setup is to run data cable, known as Cat 5, around the house. Each cable runs back to a central hub where the connections are made. You can in theory link everything together but in practice people tend to want specific features enabled. These are detailed below:

### Internet Connection and Home Networking

Broadband and home networking capabilities are available everywhere you place a socket. Every device plugs into a data socket and can be configured to link together or to an internet router.

## "We Created a Hi-tech Farmhouse"

A traditional family home has been given a smart makeover so that every element can be controlled — with no cables on display



This remote stone farmhouse on the West Pennine Moors was given a hi-tech makeover by home automation installer Morban (0870 141 7042 morban.co.uk). The traditional farmhouse, built in 1870, was modernised and extended as a family home by Nigel Moon and his wife, Ashley, for them and their two children. The house features a Cytech Europe Comfort Intelligent Home System, which controls the two gates and three garages, a Systemline audio system, three touch-control panels and Velux windows throughout the house. The setup also includes digital CCTV, a whole-house audiovisual system with a central server, and discreet speakers (BELOW). "It's really great, you can control the gates, view all the CCTV cameras, distribute video and TV throughout the house to 12 flat screens and much more," says Nigel.