

# PREFERRED CLIENT

# update

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working hard to keep you informed

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Apex

## Big Enough To Help... Small Enough To Care

# The Home of the Future is Well On Its Way

Living in "the home of the future" is no longer a distant dream – it is about to become a reality. So-called "smart home" systems are getting more and more affordable – and easier to operate. They bring together the latest products in intelligent technology and household automation, from entertainment and communications systems to utility operations and more.



Though much of this has been predicted for years, the integrated

systems are finally here, thanks to advances in data compression. It is now possible to send much more information along smaller conduit channels. As a result, existing household telephone lines, internet cables, and common electrical wiring can be used as data connectors between appliances and tools. In addition, microelectronics now allow even the smallest devices to be equipped with computerized circuitry. It won't even be necessary to move into a new house or condo to utilize this new technology – your "home of the future" doesn't have to look like a laboratory, it can become part of your existing home!

## Convergence and Coordination

Smart home systems will soon take us beyond controlling individual units, by converging the technologies of a number of common independent home systems into one control center. They can already coordinate many basic household functions to the point that we no longer have to think about them. Here are just some of the tasks they are capable of managing:

- Climate control and utilities (eg. air conditioning and hot water usage monitored and programmed)
- Intelligent interactive lighting and security systems (eg. open a curtain, and the lights go down; open a window, and the alarm goes dormant)
- Internet, intranet and intercom telecommunications located throughout the home (allowing access from remote locations)
- Home cinema and multi-room entertainment, décor and ambience with audio & visual components (automatic music and art images)

## Integration of Information

One of the most promising technological innovations soon to be available to consumers is the use of Radio Frequency Identification with common household products. "RFID" is

the same technology that triggers an alarm when a product leaves a store without being paid for – and it is creating all sorts of new possibilities in wireless communications.

For instance, when you go grocery shopping, store scanners will eliminate the need for lining up to check out – they will "read" your purchases as you walk past, then automatically debit your account! When you get home, your food labels will be scanned by your new refrigerator. It will display which products are new, and which are running low, expired, or on-hand for your dinner recipe. In fact, fridges will be able to order whatever you need delivered, and the payment will be made online.

## Lifestyle Changes

The benefits go far beyond mere convenience. For example, a stovetop with a built-in "safe-cook" sensor could save lives and prevent serious property damage. A motion detector could warn of danger to an elderly or disabled person. Home interior sensors would be invaluable for detecting gas or water leaks. Plus, many of the newest appliances will perform self-diagnoses, and even schedule service calls! True, you may not need something as mundane as an automatic drapery track, but it could eventually become integral to your home network, as part of your security system and energy conservation program.

## Greener Living

Conservation and pollution will certainly become top household priorities in the near future. Although there are many viable, renewable "green energy" systems available today, they will need to become more integrated into our day-to-day living. As our expectations (and obligations) change, we will enlist smart home systems to help us manage things better...

- ◆ Using cheaper, cleaner, renewable resources, programmed for maximum efficiency (eg. solar energy collection and storage)
- ◆ Improving standards of product performance by utilizing energy-efficient features (eg. time-delayed laundering)
- ◆ Treating "graywater" as a reusable resource (eg. for flushing toilets, gardening, etc.)

## Thinking About Tomorrow

We will need to consider how we use our homes in the future, as our families mature and we adapt to changing circumstances. Smart home systems can help us stick to the routines we will want (and need) to follow, so we can manage our resources without having to worry about providing security, saving money, or protecting the environment. The new technology has already been functioning in many homes in Europe, and it is now becoming available in North America. Some day soon, your home could have it too.

## Energy Costs Going Through the Roof? Make a Power Switch!

### 7 Handy, Helpful Hints

- 1 Use only vertical or horizontal strokes when washing windows from the outside, and the opposite from the inside, so you will know which side has streaks on it.
- 2 To keep appliance cords neat, store them in empty toilet paper rolls. You can write which appliance it belongs to on the outside.
- 3 Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers so clothing, towels or linen will smell freshly washed.
- 4 If you have leftover wine, freeze it into ice cubes for future use in casseroles and sauces.
- 5 Candle wax melted on your carpet? Put brown kraft paper over it, and apply an iron at low heat. The paper will absorb the wax as it melts.
- 6 To confirm that an egg has been boiled, spin it. It should rotate quickly without wobbling.
- 7 Gum is more easily removed from clothing if you put it in the freezer first, and more easily removed from hair if you add peanut butter to it.

If you're looking for ways that you and your family can reduce your energy use, keep track of your consumption by saving your bills, and noting the dates of any major changes (eg. severe weather, new appliance, change of routine, etc.). Then compare your consumption and spending to previous years' results. Meanwhile, here are some "electrical switches" you can make right away, for a noticeable cost reduction:

- Switch to newer, smaller fluorescent bulbs.
- Switch large or multi-light fixtures to dimmer controls.
- Switch to water-saving shower heads.
- Switch your laundry wash to cold water – most washing energy is spent making hot water.

## Think, Act...Live!

*"Picture in your mind a sense of personal destiny."*

**Wayne Oates**

*"Life's like a boomerang. The more good you throw out, the more you receive in return."*

**Josh S. Hinds**

*"You've got to get up every morning with determination, if you're going to go to bed with satisfaction."*

**George Horace Lorimer**

*"Don't ask for an easier life; ask to be a stronger person."*

**Unknown**

*"One who smiles rather than angers is always stronger."*

**Chinese proverb**

# Sharing Skills



Everyone has a skill, an area of interest or a hobby. You might be handy with a hammer, good at gardening, or have a super golf swing. Whatever your hobby or specialty, sometimes the most enjoyable part of that skill is sharing it with a friend or neighbor.

In my case, staying up-to-date on Real Estate information is my skill. Applying my knowledge to someone who can benefit from my efforts is very satisfying. So, if there's something I can help you with, just let me know. Sharing my expertise is simply one of the most enjoyable parts of my business.

**If you want up-to-date statistical data for your street and area, please call.**

**Call JC Van Der Walt today for all your Real Estate needs.  
Realty Executives Apex**

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