

THE SMART HOME QUICK CARD PACK

Four printable cards from The Thirty Minute Smart Home Rescue. Pin them up, tick them off, and enjoy a calm, steady smart home.



Card 1: The Symptom Finder

Find the sentence that sounds like your home

SETUP AND PAIRING

"My new device will not set up."

First question: is my phone on 2.4 GHz WiFi with Bluetooth on?

Chapter 3

"Matter asks for a code and I am not sure which."

First question: is it already in another app?

Chapter 7

"A Thread sensor says searching."

First question: which of my devices is a border router?

Chapter 8

OFFLINE, SLOW OR QUIET

"Devices show offline or unresponsive."

First question: does the device work in its maker's app?

Chapter 4

"Everything dropped after a power cut."

First question: did I restart in the right order?

Quick Start, Ch 4

"Fine in the maker app, failing in the assistant."

First question: does tapping work in the assistant app?

Chapters 5, 6

"A routine did not run."

First question: does it run by tap?

Chapter 6

DEVICES AROUND THE HOME

"A bulb, switch or plug misbehaves."

First question: is the wall switch on?

Chapter 10

"The camera or doorbell is slow."

First question: how strong is the signal at the camera?

Chapter 11

"The lock shows the wrong status."

First question: is the door aligned?

Chapter 11

"A sensor chirps or goes quiet."

First question: when did I last change the battery?

Chapter 12

SERVICE, SAFETY AND CHOICES

"Many things stopped at once."

First question: do others report an outage?

Chapter 13

"I worry about privacy or hacking."

First question: unique passwords and two step verification?

Chapter 14

"Which platform or device should I choose?"

First question: which phones live in my home?

Chapters 9, 16

THE SETUP RECIPE

Follow this order every time you add a device. It takes about ten minutes, and it prevents most setup trouble.

1

Place and power

Charge or power the device, and keep it near your router until setup ends.

2

Prepare your phone

Join the 2.4 GHz network (or the main one if the device supports it), turn on Bluetooth, switch off mobile data and close other apps.

3

Open the right app

Use the maker's app or the assistant app the box names.

4

Pairing mode

Check the manual. Many devices blink, flash or pulse when ready. Reset it first if it was used before.

5

Scan or type the code

Keep the printed code. Store its photo somewhere private, and out of shared albums.

6

Stay close and patient

Let the device finish. Many need a minute or two.

7

Name it clearly

Room plus item, such as "Bedroom reading lamp." Rename it at once.

8

Test it three ways

Maker app, assistant app by tap, and by voice.

9

Add it to your Home Map

Room, radio, app, battery type and date.

THIS DEVICE

Device and name

Room

Radio (WiFi, Thread, Zigbee, Bluetooth)

Date set up

Troubles with a step? Write the step number here: _____ It becomes your own Setup Recipe, tailored to your home.

THE OFFLINE LOG

One event is noise, and three events with something in common are a clue. Log each one, then climb the ladder.

DATE AND TIME	DEVICE AND ROOM	WHAT ELSE WAS HAPPENING	WHAT I TRIED	HOW IT RECOVERED

THE FREE FIX LADDER, IN ORDER

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Wait five minutes | ☐ Unlink, wait 30 seconds, relink, discover devices |
| ☐ Power cycle the device (30 seconds) | ☐ Reserve an address for the device |
| ☐ Restart in order: modem, router, hub, speaker, device | ☐ Update the firmware |
| ☐ Look for a notice in the maker app | ☐ Delete stale duplicates in the assistant app |
| ☐ Phone on the same WiFi as the device? | ☐ Last: remove the device and add it again (Fresh Start Test) |

One device, every few days

Look at its battery, its spot and its address.

Several devices in one room

Look at the signal and add a powered helper.

Everything at the same hour

Look at schedules: router updates, backups, evening streaming.

Pattern I notice: _____

THE QUARTERLY CHECKUP

Ten minutes every three months keeps your smart home steady and secure. Set a calendar reminder for the first Saturday of each quarter.

EVERY QUARTER

- ☐ Install updates for the router, hubs, cameras and locks
- ☐ Update the assistant and maker apps
- ☐ Replace batteries that the Battery Calendar lists
- ☐ Scan the router's device list and recognize every name
- ☐ Review who has access in each app
- ☐ Read the Offline Log for patterns
- ☐ Run the Five Tests on your three key devices
- ☐ Try one manual control, such as a key or wall switch
- ☐ Glance at subscriptions and renewal dates

TWICE A YEAR, IN ADDITION

- ☐ Check routines when the clocks change
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and water leak sensors
- ☐ Check each maker's support page for end of life news
- ☐ Refresh passwords you shared widely
- ☐ Review the Plan B Page and its phone numbers
- ☐ Retire accounts and devices you no longer use

THE RESTART ORDER

- ☐ Modem first, then router
- ☐ Then hub or border router
- ☐ Then speakers and displays
- ☐ Then the devices

QUARTER	DATE	OFFLINE EVENTS	BATTERIES CHANGED	UPDATES DONE	NOTES
Jan					
Apr					
Jul					
Oct					

Quiet quarter

A quiet success. Enjoy it.

A growing list of events

Check the Offline Log for a shared cause.

A maker ending a service

Open Chapter 13 and plan a calm swap.