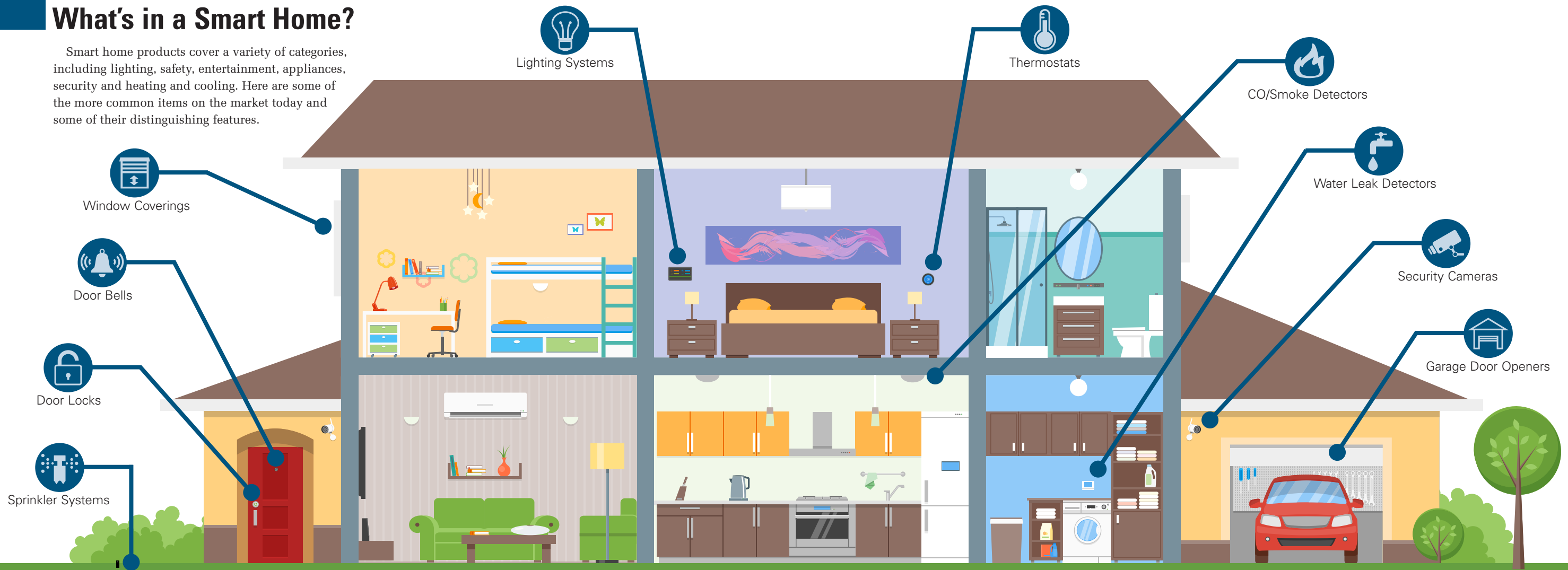


What's in a Smart Home?

Smart home products cover a variety of categories, including lighting, safety, entertainment, appliances, security and heating and cooling. Here are some of the more common items on the market today and some of their distinguishing features.



Window Coverings

Automated window coverings allow you to set when you would like your blinds to open and close, then adjust that schedule as the seasons and sunrise/sunset schedules shift. You can also control them remotely.



Door Bells

These door bells alert your smartphone when a visitor rings. Via a built-in camera, the bell allows you to see who's at the front door and talk with them via a smartphone, even if you're not home.



Door Locks

Manage the exterior lock to your home with a smartphone. These locks have keyless entry or a keypad. Besides making it easier to open your door, the locks enhance security because they can track who comes in and out of your house, since each user has a customized code. You can also unlock the door from a remote location if you need to let someone in when you're not home.



Sprinkler Systems

These solve the problem of lawn sprinkler systems that turn on during a rainstorm, wasting water. They adjust your watering schedule according to the weather forecast. You can also program them to customize a watering schedule based on zones in the yard, sun exposure, soil and plant types. If there are watering restrictions in your area, they adjust your watering schedule accordingly.



Lighting Systems

Using your smartphone to control the LED lighting in your home, you can dim, brighten, change the color or even synchronize the lights to music. No need for timers; you can set the schedule for your home's lighting from your smartphone or device. Some lighting systems change their brightness based on the time of day or whether or not the room is occupied.



Thermostats

These products allow you to adjust the thermostat remotely from a smartphone or other device, but they can also use a combination of sensors and algorithms to learn your schedule and adjust the temperature throughout the day accordingly. The big benefit is helping you save energy. They give you a complete energy usage report so you can see how much money you are saving.



CO/Smoke Detectors

Built for safety and peace of mind, these detect smoke and carbon monoxide, and some even monitor air quality. They minimize false alarms and send an alert to your smartphone or other device when there is an emergency. Some can work with other systems in your home, such as the thermostat, to turn off the furnace if there's a gas leak.



Water Leak Detectors

These detect water leaks early and some even report elevated levels of moisture and temperature, which could also damage homes. The detector sends an alert to your phone and can often be integrated with other home security systems.



Security Cameras

Wi-Fi security cameras allow you to see what's going on inside or outside the home from a computer, tablet or smartphone. The camera sends you an alert when it senses something suspicious. Some have built-in microphones so you can send a message through the camera via a phone.



Garage Door Openers

Using your smartphone, you can control and check the open/close status of your garage door, from anywhere. It is typically an add-on to an existing garage door opener.