

3 Reasons to Invest in Smart Tech

AI is becoming more and more a part of modern life. Whether you are for it, against it, or somewhere in between, embracing AI at home can have considerable benefits.

Saves \$\$\$ – With smart technology, you can set usage modes based on time of day or set vacation mode with your thermostat, lights, and refrigerator. If you forget to turn down the heat before you leave, you can remotely control it with your phone from anywhere.

Time-saving alerts and reminders – Have you ever put a load of laundry in the washer only to forget about it until the next day? With smart technology, you can receive alerts when your laundry is complete. For the kitchen, you can now buy smart fridges that track food inventory and expiration dates and notify you when items are running low.

Security – Wouldn't it give you peace of mind if you got a



notification when the oven was left on or the front door was unlocked? Smart technology can do just that and rectify the situation – remotely. There are now also smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that can alert you of an emergency when you are away or notify you when batteries need to be changed.

If you want to save time, increase your condo's value, and have peace of mind, you might want to consider investing in smart technology.



Nosy Neighbours: Balcony Privacy

Do you like to see but not be *seen* when you are on your balcony? Understandable. Fortunately, there are many options available to choose from to make your balcony a more private enclave.

If you have the type of balcony with openings between the rail posts, you could grow **fast-growing vines** amongst the posts. If not, you can still grow vines in a container on a trellis along the balcony fence.

Other forms of vertical gardening can also do wonders for privacy – think trees or shrubs you can grow in a pot, ornamental grasses, potted plants on a table with trailing plants, and window boxes on the inside rail (if your condo board permits).

Aside from greenery, another privacy option could be creating an enclosure by using **screening** such as bamboo, partition, sun shade, or curtain panels. Check whether your property management has specific rules regarding screenings. There are also freestanding privacy screens, which you don't have to worry about attaching to anything.

There are many balcony privacy ideas available to be found online. Whatever you decide, your privacy efforts will benefit your comfort in the short-term and make it more desirable to buyers in the long-term.

3 Ideas for a Balcony Flooring Facelift

If you have been soaking up the summer with frequent time on your balcony, maybe you are getting a little bored with the ambiance and feel it could use a little freshening up. Upgrading your balcony flooring is a great way to do that, and there are some excellent options to choose from, such as:

- 1. Interlocking deck tiles** – Available in different styles, keep in mind that you may need to measure and cut the tiles in places to fit your balcony's dimensions. Depending on your time and handiwork skills, you may want to hire a contractor for installation.
- 2. Outdoor carpet** – Available in a variety of colours and patterns, this is an easy and cost-effective way to update the look of your balcony and protect the flooring underneath. Be sure to put some heavy items on top of the carpet so it doesn't blow around.
- 3. Rubber pavers** – These can mimic the look of cobblestones or brick and are also slip-resistant if safety is a concern.

Before choosing your balcony flooring, look into your condo board rules. Depending on the type of flooring used, a pedestal system underneath may be required to preserve the original flooring.

