20 Smart New-Home Upgrades That Can Cost Less Than $200

Small construction details that deliver everyday convenience, cleaner design and long-term value.

ROSO BUILDER NOTE

These are planning-level ideas. Actual costs vary by plan, trade, jurisdiction and stage of construction. Electrical and plumbing work must comply with applicable codes and be performed by qualified trades.

The 20 upgrades at a glance

1	**Outlet Inside the Primary Bath Vanity** Keeps toothbrushes, shavers and hair tools powered and hidden.
2	**Outlet Inside a Kitchen Cabinet or Pantry** Creates a concealed home for small appliances, chargers or a cordless vacuum.
3	**Dedicated Outlet Behind Every Toilet** Future-proofs each bath for a heated bidet seat without visible cords.
4	**Christmas-Light Outlets in the Soffits** Eliminates extension cords hanging down the exterior every holiday season.
5	**Outlet Above the Kitchen Cabinets** Supports seasonal decor, accent lighting and future LED lighting.
6	**Recessed Outlet Behind Wall-Mounted TVs** Lets the TV sit close to the wall with no plug or cord showing.
7	**Smurf Tube from TV to Media Cabinet** Allows HDMI and data cables to be replaced later without opening drywall.
8	**Empty Conduit from Attic to Media Panel** Creates an inexpensive pathway for future low-voltage technology.
9	**Cat6 Cable to Every TV Location** Gives streaming devices a fast, stable hardwired connection.
10	**Cat6 to Ceiling Wi-Fi Access Points** Makes whole-home Wi-Fi coverage easier in larger houses.
11	**Blocking Behind Bathroom Towel Bars** Stops towel bars and toilet-paper holders from pulling out of drywall.
12	**Blocking for Future Grab Bars** Makes later aging-in-place upgrades strong, simple and clean.

13	**Blocking at Every Planned TV** Supports flexible bracket placement without relying only on studs or anchors.
14	**Pre-Drywall Photo and Video Package** Documents framing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC and blocking before they disappear.
15	**Accessible Hot-Water Shutoff Valves** Makes servicing fixtures faster and reduces the damage from leaks.
16	**Hose Bib Inside the Garage** Makes it easy to wash cars, tools, pets and the garage floor.
17	**Garage Ceiling Outlet** Prepares for a retractable cord reel, ceiling accessories or supplemental lighting.
18	**Motion-Activated Pantry Lighting** Creates a small luxury moment every time the pantry door opens.
19	**Motion-Activated Bath Toe-Kick Lighting** Provides gentle nighttime light without turning on bright overhead fixtures.
20	**Powered Package-Delivery Location** Prepares the porch for a camera, smart doorbell accessory or future delivery box.

UPGRADE 1 OF 20

Outlet Inside the Primary Bath Vanity

Keeps toothbrushes, shavers and hair tools powered and hidden.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL

Best added during electrical rough-in; use GFCI protection where required.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/8WHIydhzex4

UPGRADE 2 OF 20

Outlet Inside a Kitchen Cabinet or Pantry

Creates a concealed home for small appliances, chargers or a cordless vacuum.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Coordinate the exact cabinet and shelf location before rough-in.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/H25WnC748lU

UPGRADE 3 OF 20

Dedicated Outlet Behind Every Toilet

Future-proofs each bath for a heated bidet seat without visible cords.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL	Place beside or behind the bowl where the seat manufacturer recommends.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/wHyLPgEbbPg

UPGRADE 4 OF 20

Christmas-Light Outlets in the Soffits

Eliminates extension cords hanging down the exterior every holiday season.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Put these on a labeled interior switch or smart timer.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/zGQRjlV7J0E

UPGRADE 5 OF 20

Outlet Above the Kitchen Cabinets

Supports seasonal decor, accent lighting and future LED lighting.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Confirm it remains concealed from normal sight lines.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/tJX1iQM-5hM

UPGRADE 6 OF 20

Recessed Outlet Behind Wall-Mounted TVs

Lets the TV sit close to the wall with no plug or cord showing.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Coordinate the outlet height with the selected screen and mount.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/MEkCveUi-bY

UPGRADE 7 OF 20

Smurf Tube from TV to Media Cabinet

Allows HDMI and data cables to be replaced later without opening drywall.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use sweep bends, a pull string and accessible endpoints.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/0QrpBj6w33Y

UPGRADE 8 OF 20

Empty Conduit from Attic to Media Panel

Creates an inexpensive pathway for future low-voltage technology.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Cap and label both ends and leave a pull string inside.

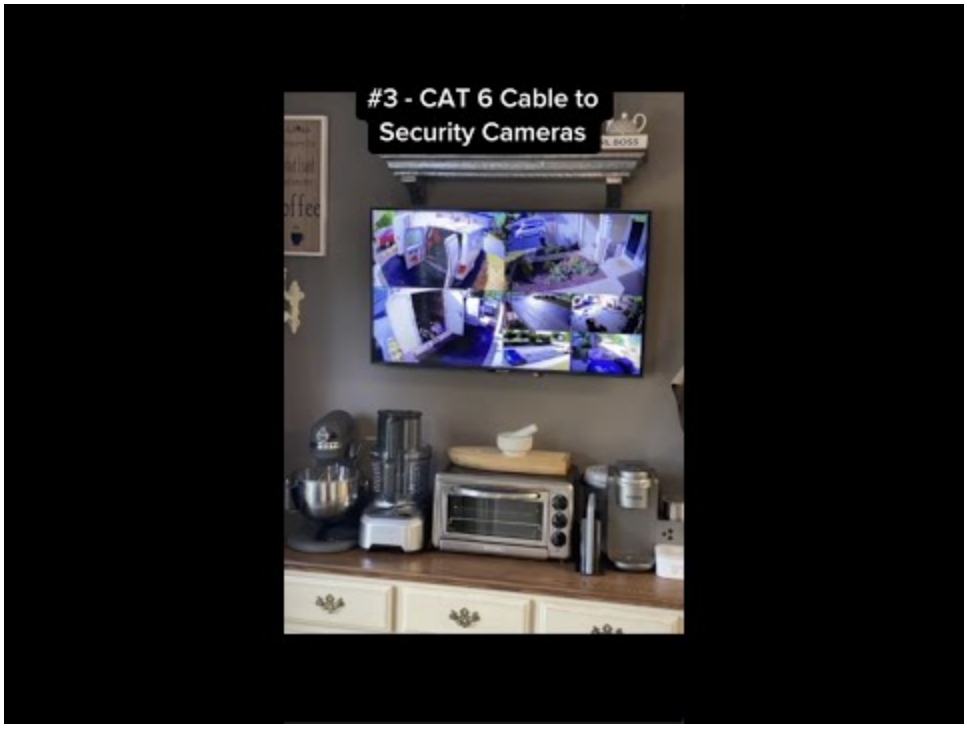
WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cBNzcpkxzlA

UPGRADE 9 OF 20

Cat6 Cable to Every TV Location

Gives streaming devices a fast, stable hardwired connection.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Home-run each cable to the structured-media panel and label it.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Iseu64fZBec

UPGRADE 10 OF 20

Cat6 to Ceiling Wi-Fi Access Points

Makes whole-home Wi-Fi coverage easier in larger houses.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Select central ceiling locations away from major obstructions.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/cBNzcpkxzlA

UPGRADE 11 OF 20

Blocking Behind Bathroom Towel Bars

Stops towel bars and toilet-paper holders from pulling out of drywall.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use scrap lumber and record the exact blocking locations.

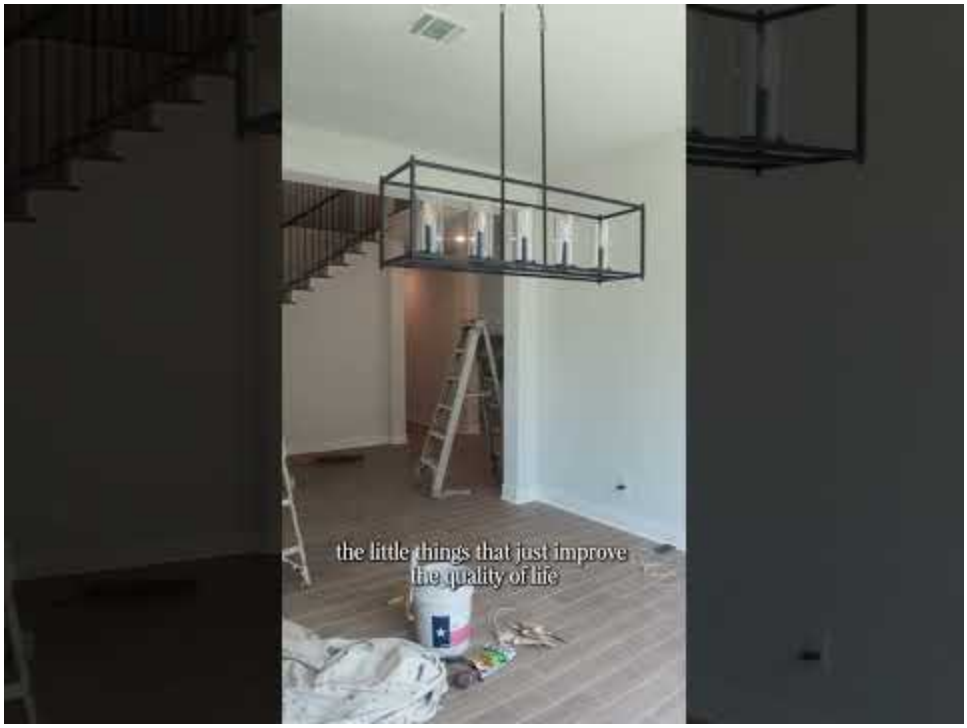
WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/WB3puonXH6w

UPGRADE 12 OF 20

Blocking for Future Grab Bars

Makes later aging-in-place upgrades strong, simple and clean.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Install at planned shower and toilet locations before drywall.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3hgcbCFwGCI

UPGRADE 13 OF 20

Blocking at Every Planned TV

Supports flexible bracket placement without relying only on studs or anchors.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use wide plywood or solid lumber across the mounting zone.

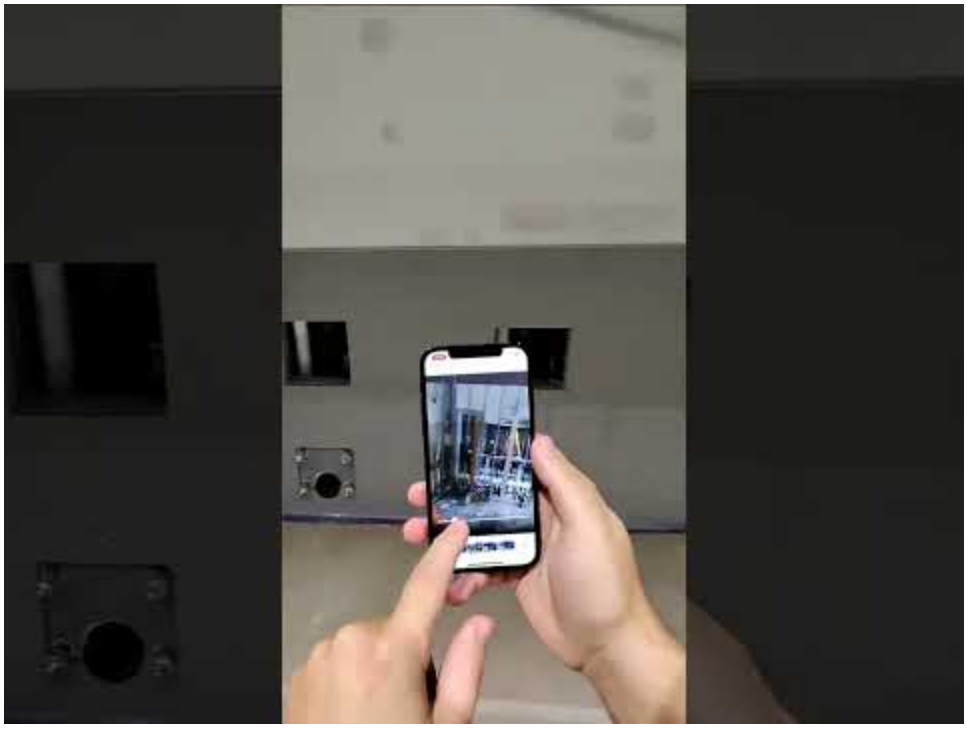
WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/mP32g-nUYY4

UPGRADE 14 OF 20

Pre-Drywall Photo and Video Package

Documents framing, plumbing, electrical, HVAC and blocking before they disappear.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL	Photograph every wall straight-on, label by room and give the owner a digital copy.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/V036c_JJ8Kc

UPGRADE 15 OF 20

Accessible Hot-Water Shutoff Valves

Makes servicing fixtures faster and reduces the damage from leaks.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Avoid burying critical valves behind fixed cabinetry or appliances.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/DL0i5aBrx2k

UPGRADE 16 OF 20

Hose Bib Inside the Garage

Makes it easy to wash cars, tools, pets and the garage floor.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use an appropriate backflow-protected, freeze-conscious installation.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/FzwJ1KPIUPw

UPGRADE 17 OF 20

Garage Ceiling Outlet

Prepares for a retractable cord reel, ceiling accessories or supplemental lighting.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Coordinate load, GFCI requirements and future equipment location.

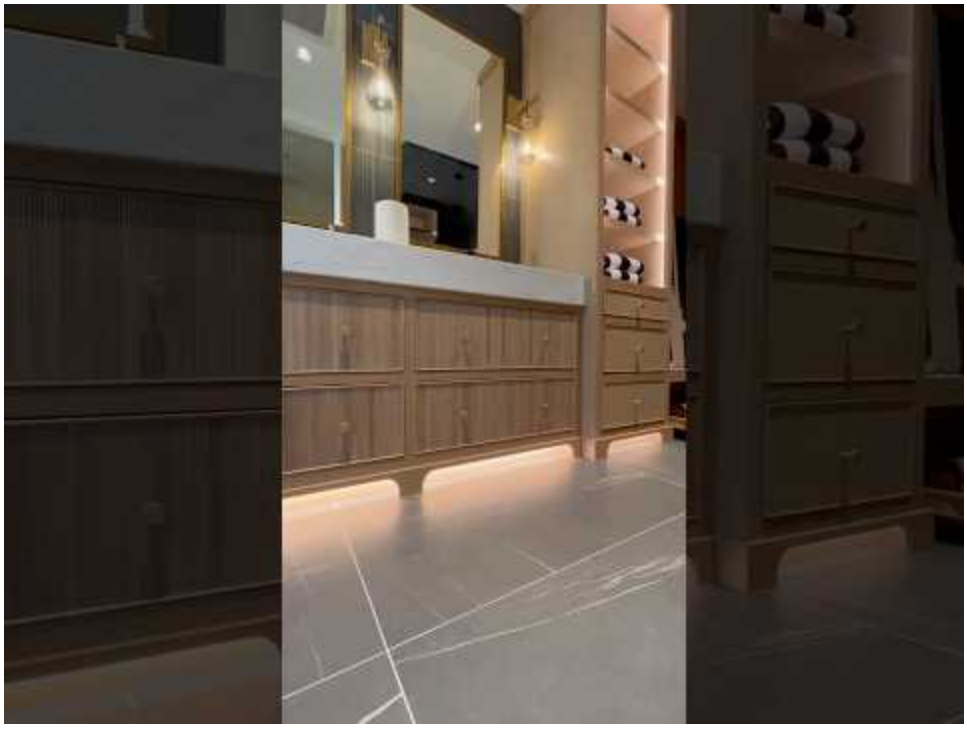
WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/i2UtIIBhqHM

UPGRADE 18 OF 20

Motion-Activated Pantry Lighting

Creates a small luxury moment every time the pantry door opens.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use an occupancy sensor or door switch with an automatic shutoff.

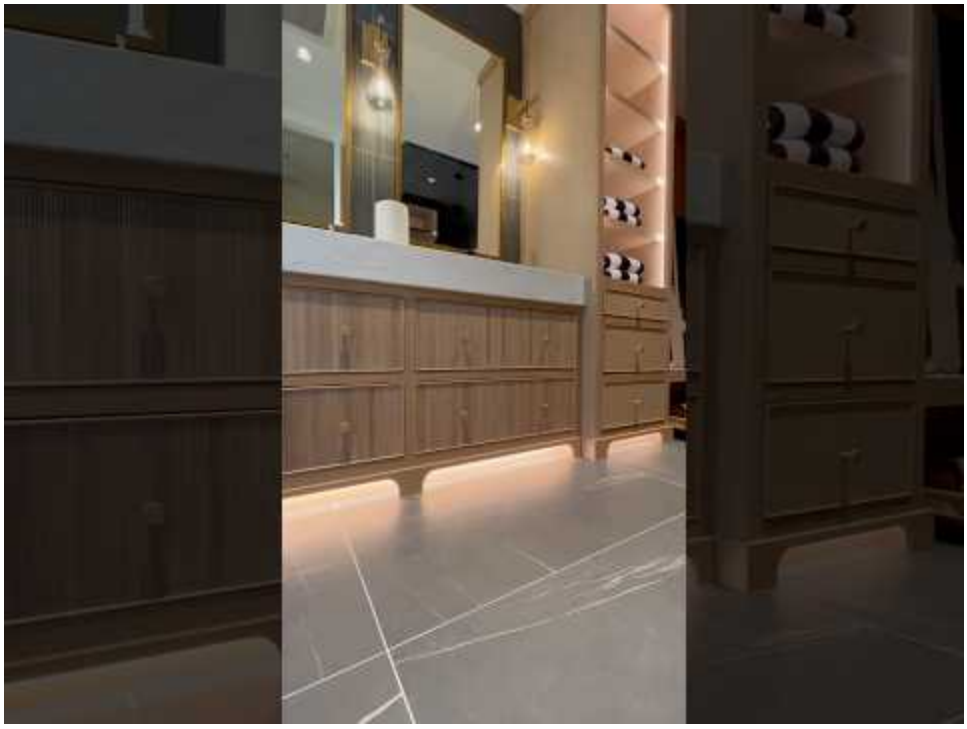
WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4V6tgnJ7sKQ

UPGRADE 19 OF 20

Motion-Activated Bath Toe-Kick Lighting

Provides gentle nighttime light without turning on bright overhead fixtures.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Use warm, dimmable LED tape in an accessible aluminum channel.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/4V6tgnJ7sKQ

UPGRADE 20 OF 20

Powered Package-Delivery Location

Prepares the porch for a camera, smart doorbell accessory or future delivery box.



Example image from the linked short video. Click the button below to watch.

BUILDER DETAIL Keep the receptacle discreet, weather-resistant and GFCI protected.

WATCH SHORT VIDEO (UNDER 3 MINUTES)

https://www.youtube.com/shorts/A3KPsAgmxac