



5

Things Builders Should Know About WiFi-Readiness

1

It's more than a trend.

In the new home market, preferences of style and size can vary with the times, and even the region or demographic. But WiFi-readiness is not a trend as much as a shifted expectation in what homes require for life today.

People need "connected" homes because they invariably are living "connected" lives. In 2019, market research portal Statista reported 60 million broadband subscribers in the United States, with 36% of U.S. adults between the ages of 30-49 describing themselves as being online "almost constantly." Houses today sometimes also have to serve as workplaces, schools and daycares, all with their own digital needs. Networking has become the fourth utility, so the question is not if to plan for WiFi-readiness as you construct homes, but how.

2 It's another kind of strong foundation.

WiFi-Readiness means creating an environment that is ready to handle the wireless demands of the smart devices and systems people will likely use in their homes. Much like a structure's physical foundation, your customers are far more likely to notice if it isn't doing its job than if it is, but its impact on a buyer's satisfaction with their new home is very real.

Properly establishing that WiFi-ready environment starts at the enclosure. It's a critical first step to use a plastic enclosure for WiFi transparency. While a plastic enclosure will continue to also house traditional, wired components and modules, it is also what enables the inclusion of, and communication with, any wireless devices or systems. If you want to offer or support any smart home technologies, or simply enhance the aesthetics of your home by consolidating wireless components out of sight, using a plastic enclosure is an absolute must.

3 It's a balancing act.

The goals of a WiFi-ready home are to:

- 1 provide an easy transition for buyers when moving in so they can quickly begin using all the various electronics and services in their new space; and,
- 2 ensure that when using those electronics and services, the experience is a good one – meaning they can count on a reliable connection and optimal performance no matter where they are in the home.

Achieving that second goal takes a lot of WiFi signal strength. And ensuring the strongest WiFi signal for unencumbered coverage throughout an entire home actually requires a balance of wired and wireless.

Wireless connections have a finite amount of traffic they can handle, and every wireless device adds stress to the connection. With the average US home having over 11 connected devices according to a 2019 report by Deloitte, preventing unnecessary traffic from jamming the network is important. Even mesh networks, which can offer easy-to-install coverage throughout a home, can run into trouble here, by adding to the stress on the connection and taking bandwidth away from the devices they support. Plenty of buyers today will have high throughput needs, from those streaming games online to those fielding long video conference calls, so this is another area where elective hardwiring can greatly improve performance. Ultimately, networking solutions that hardwire all that they can, from routers to access points, have the best bet of delivering the superior user experience intended by a true WiFi-ready home.

4 Its solutions involve quality equipment, and expertise.

Equipment quality undoubtedly plays a part in successful WiFi-readiness. To extend proper wireless coverage throughout a residence, while delivering the promised speeds of an Internet Provider, requires powerful components. Often, when WiFi-readiness isn't considered by the builder, customers will bring along their old routers to the new home to avoid additional money and hassle. The result is too frequently frustration as the older device fails to cover the entire home adequately.

But even with just higher quality equipment, there is risk of disappointment if expert insight is not also applied. There is no one size fits all solution for guaranteed wireless coverage throughout a home. While the quality of the equipment is important, optimal performance requires careful consideration of a home's layout, building materials and more, to not only identify the proper products, but also the precise placement.

5 It's simplified by supportive partners.

Perhaps the most important thing to know about WiFi-readiness is that it doesn't have to be confusing, complicated or time-consuming. By selecting integrators and manufacturers who understand the nuances of reliable, WiFi-ready networking, and back their expertise up with robust service and support, meeting the expectations of your customers can be easy.

On the manufacturer side especially, brands that offer more than just the products themselves give you and your integrator a real advantage. With the Luxul line of networking equipment, not only is there a host of leading, powerful products to choose from and use, but the brand also offers design assistance with tools like WiFi Coverage Maps as well as the extensive knowledge of their expert team. They are able to assess the new home and recommend the best combination of products and placement for superior coverage. Additionally, with remote monitoring and management tools – like Luxul Prowatch – your integrators can receive notifications on the completed network's status, potentially correcting any problems before a homeowner even has the chance to notice them. Combining this support with the Luxul 3-year guarantee, means less aggravation for you and your integrator, as well as ensured homebuyer satisfaction.



To learn more about building in WiFi-readiness for The Connected Home, visit legrand.us/builder.

Recommended Solutions for WiFi-Readiness:



On-Q Enhanced WiFi Ready Plastic Enclosures

Made in the USA and available in various sizes. Learn more at: legrand.us/plastic-enclosures



Luxul Epic 3 Dual-Band Wireless AC3100 Gigabit Router XWR-3150

Features the latest in advanced wireless technology and supports easy expansion with up to two wireless access points for larger homes. Learn more at: luxul.com/routers/wireless-routers/xwr-3150



Luxul Apex Wave 2 Dual-Band Access Point XAP-1610

Extends wireless coverage while delivering outstanding performance with increased data rates. Learn more at: luxul.com/wireless/wireless-access-points/xap-1610



Luxul 12-Port/8 POE+ Front-Facing Rackmount Switch XMS-1208P

Helps easily expand a home network for wired devices with powerful performance. Great for supporting security cameras, IP phones, and other PoE-powered devices. Learn more at: luxul.com/switches/poe-switches/xms-1208p.aspx



Luxul AV Series 8-Port Gigabit Switch AGS-1008M

Helps easily expand a home network for wired devices with exceptional performance and flexibility. Great for optimizing video, security systems, gaming applications, and more. Learn more at: luxul.com/switches/av-switches/ags-1008m