

REAL ESTATE



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Windermere
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Brand-new innovations for the home

Innovators are making inroads in all facets of life, making our world safer, smarter and more energy efficient. Nowhere is this more evident than in new technology for the home.

These innovations make homes greener, more functional and durable while also adding an element of uniqueness that can add value if you choose to sell your home. Here are just a few new home technologies that will soon be available to homeowners, noted by the website New Homes & Ideas.

GREENER ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Several new and exciting technologies for the home were unveiled at the 2021 International Builders' Show, including the AeroBarrier, a breakthrough in passive home envelope tightness. Blown into a pressurized space, the AeroBarrier sealant particles are drawn to any leaks in the building envelope, until any hole is

tightly sealed. This system increases energy efficiency and also reduces labor costs for builders.

The new Retrax Solar Solutions offers pre-assembled solar panels that are easy to install and relocate. These panels are easy to remove (for roof repairs or moving) and come pre-wired and are able to be activated in 30 minutes or less. They won't damage your roof, and they're easy to remove when you move (or need roof repairs). Retrax panels come pre-wired and can be activated in less than 30 minutes and come folded up so they can be easily transported.

Another award winner at the IBS was the Ecobee smart thermostat, which measures occupancy and temperature for maximum energy efficiency. The newest version features a built-in speaker and microphone and can be controlled through a touchscreen, a smart device or by voice and pairs with Amazon Alexa and other voice-controlled devices.

NEW FLOORING CHOICES

The advent of 3D printing has benefited many industries. Now, that remarkable technology is being

put to use by flooring makers who are able to perfectly mimic the colors and textures of stone and wood using durable materials that use advanced waterproof coatings.

Looking for wide-plank hickory driftwood or Tuscan granite? Luxury vinyl tile created using 3D printing makes these styles available at more affordable prices. There are graphic tile options to suit almost any preference, and they can also be applied to backsplashes and bathroom walls.

While radiant floor heating has been available for many years, advances in technology have made it more within reach of many homeowners. Manufacturers such as STEP Warmfloor offers heated flooring options that provide even heating while also being energy efficient. It can also be installed under a variety of surfaces, including stone, wood, engineered materials and carpet.

These are just a few new technologies being made available to homeowners. To learn more, visit a local home-improvement store near you.

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