ACT INSTALLS — FOR BUILDERS & ARCHITECTS

Prewire Guide

What needs to be in the walls before drywall closes — and why the timing matters more than the spec sheet.

Prewire is the one phase of a technology install that cannot be revisited later without cost, disruption, and compromise. Once drywall is hung and finishes begin, the paths for cable, conduit, and blocking are effectively locked — retrofitting a run means cutting into finished walls, rerouting around structure, or accepting a wireless workaround the client never asked for.

This guide covers the six areas where early decisions protect the finished result: TV locations, speaker and audio zones, motorized shade pockets, network drops, camera runs, and the equipment room. It is meant to travel with the framing and rough-in schedule so nothing gets buried before it is reviewed. For the full technical specification, ask your Luxury Technology Advisor for the companion Low Voltage Standards guide — this one is the fast version to keep on the jobsite.

TV & Display Locations

Every display location needs more than a power outlet — it needs a plan for how the cable, mount, and surrounding finish will disappear once the room is done. That plan has to exist before the wall is closed.

- ☐ Confirm final TV height and centerline against furniture layout, not just wall centerline — seating plans change less often than framing does
- ☐ Recessed power and low-voltage box behind the panel location, sized for a full-motion or fixed mount
- ☐ Conduit path from the display back to the equipment room or local closet for future cable changes without re-opening drywall
- ☐ Blocking in the wall for the mount bracket, rated for the display size and mount type being planned
- ☐ For above-fireplace or structural-wall locations, confirm heat clearance and conduit routing with the trade team early

Speaker & Audio Zones

Invisible Technology™ only stays invisible if the rough-in happens on schedule. In-ceiling and in-wall locations, along with any concealed soundbar or riser locations, need to be marked and wired before insulation and

drywall — there is no clean way to add a speaker location after the fact without visible patchwork.

- ☐ Mark in-ceiling and in-wall speaker locations on the framing plan, coordinated with lighting and HVAC to avoid conflicts
- ☐ Run home-run cable to each location — no daisy-chaining — so zones can be adjusted independently later
- ☐ Note any architectural speaker locations (behind grille, in soffit, in outdoor eave) that require custom blocking or backer material
- ☐ Confirm subwoofer location and dedicated circuit needs before flooring is set

Motorized Shade Pockets

Shade pockets are framing decisions, not finish decisions. If the pocket dimension, power location, and header clearance are not correct at rough framing, the shade either does not fit cleanly or ends up surface-mounted — which is exactly the look most of these projects are trying to avoid.

- ☐ Confirm pocket depth and width against the specific shade fabric and roll diameter being specified
- ☐ Power drop inside or immediately adjacent to the pocket for each motorized shade
- ☐ Header clearance and mounting blocking confirmed before drywall, not assumed from a generic detail
- ☐ Coordinate pocket locations with window trim and casing details so nothing gets covered or blocked later

Network, Cameras & Security

The Estate Network™ is only as strong as the cable plant behind it. Wireless access points, cameras, and network-connected devices throughout the property all depend on wired backhaul run during framing — waiting until move-in means settling for coverage gaps or exposed cable.

- ☐ Home-run data cable to every access point location, including secondary structures and exterior eaves
- ☐ Camera runs to all exterior corners, entries, and driveway or gate locations identified in the site plan, home-run to the equipment room
- ☐ Conduit sleeves at any point where cable crosses a slab, hardscape, or masonry — these are difficult and expensive to add later
- ☐ Dedicated data drop for any gate, entry, or access control hardware associated with ACT Secure™
- ☐ Low-voltage pathway reserved between the equipment room and any detached structure requiring coverage

The Equipment Room

Every cable run in this guide terminates somewhere, and that somewhere needs to be sized and conditioned correctly from the start. A properly planned equipment room — built around a layout like The Signature Rack™ — keeps the entire system serviceable for the life of the home rather than becoming a tangle that nobody wants to open.

- ☐ Dedicated, climate-controlled space with adequate ventilation for rack-mounted equipment
- ☐ Dedicated electrical circuit(s) separate from general household loads
- ☐ Sized for current scope plus reasonable growth — this room is far cheaper to oversize now than to relocate later
- ☐ Cable pathways from every prewired location terminate here, clearly labeled before insulation goes in

If a rough-in walkthrough is coming up on your schedule, reach out to ACT Installs and we'll get a Luxury Technology Advisor on site before drywall closes.