



ACT INSTALLS — FOR BUILDERS, ARCHITECTS & DESIGNERS

Technology Budget Guide

A framework for discussing technology scope and investment with clients before drawings are finalized.

Technology is one of the few scopes on a luxury project that can expand or contract significantly after design is locked — and one of the few that becomes exponentially more expensive to add later. Clients rarely arrive with a clear sense of what "home technology" should cost relative to the rest of their build, which puts builders, architects, and designers in the position of framing that conversation without hard numbers to point to.

This guide gives you a relative framework — not pricing — for having that conversation early. It describes three general investment tiers by scope and experience, the project factors that move a client between them, and why early planning through ACT Blueprint™ protects both budget and schedule.

Why This Conversation Belongs in Early Design

Technology infrastructure — conduit paths, low-voltage backboxes, rack locations, network closets, in-ceiling speaker and shade provisions — is inexpensive to plan for and disproportionately expensive to retrofit. When technology scope is decided after walls are closed, the client absorbs added labor, patch-and-repair, and schedule delay that a five-minute conversation at the schematic phase would have avoided.

Framing technology as a relative investment tier, rather than a line-item guess, lets clients make an informed decision alongside their other finish and systems selections — without anyone needing to commit to numbers before scope is defined.

Three Relative Investment Tiers

- ☐ Essential — Reliable whole-home Wi-Fi, structured cabling, and a clean, centralized equipment location. Foundational Invisible Technology™ infrastructure with room for future expansion.
- ☐ Elevated — Essential scope plus multi-room audio, integrated lighting control, video distribution to primary living spaces, and One Touch Living™ automation for daily routines. "Simplify. Automate. Control."



- ☐ Signature — Elevated scope plus a dedicated ACT Cinema™ environment, whole-property automation through The Estate Network™, architectural and landscape lighting scenes, comprehensive ACT Secure™ coverage, and full outdoor living integration. "Escape. Immerse. Experience."

Factors That Move a Project Between Tiers

Tier is driven by scope decisions the design team is already making — not by an arbitrary technology budget set in isolation. The same square footage can land in different tiers depending on how the client wants to live in the home.

- ☐ Home size and number of distinct living zones (interior and exterior)
- ☐ Number of rooms receiving audio, video, lighting control, or shading
- ☐ Level of automation desired — from basic scheduling to full scene-based control
- ☐ Scope of outdoor living technology: audio, video, lighting, and connectivity across the property
- ☐ Security and networking coverage across structures, gates, and outbuildings
- ☐ Presence of a dedicated theater, media room, or wellness/spa technology space

How to Use This With Clients

Introduce technology scope as part of the same conversation as cabinetry, lighting fixtures, and audio-visual millwork — not as an afterthought once construction is underway. Ask the client which tier of experience they are picturing, then let ACT Installs translate that vision into an infrastructure plan through ACT Blueprint™, our nine-step process for aligning technology design with architectural and construction timelines.

Builders and design teams enrolled in The Builder Ready Program™ can loop in a Luxury Technology Advisor at the concept or schematic phase, well before rough-in, so infrastructure decisions are made once and correctly.

Questions about scoping a specific project into one of these tiers? Reach out to ACT Installs — we are happy to join the conversation early.