

## Smart Kitchen Starter Checklist

Start small. Get 1–2 wins. Expand into a reliable system.

- Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / 2026
- Prepared for (Name): \_\_\_\_\_
- Home type:  Renter / Apartment  Homeowner  Condo/HOA
- Smart assistant:  Alexa  Google Home  Both  None yet
- Budget range:  \$0–\$100  \$100–\$300  \$300–\$800  \$800+
- Priority (pick 1):  Safety  Convenience  Air Quality  Energy

These pages include:

-  Renter-friendly essentials
-  Homeowner safety stack
-  “What to buy first” priority list
-  Setup guide to turn gadgets into a system

### **Important safety note:**

This checklist is for planning and organization. Follow manufacturer instructions and local codes for installation. Smoke/CO events require immediate action—evacuate and follow emergency guidance.

### **Quick Start** (3 Steps)

- 1) Pick your track:  Renter  Homeowner (or do both)
- 2) Choose 1–2 quick wins you can finish this weekend
- 3) Set up routines + notifications so devices work together

## Section 2 — “GET 1–2 WINS” QUICK PICKS

### Choose Your 1–2 Quick Wins (Finish This Weekend)

Check only one or two to avoid overbuying.

- Win #1: Safety alerts (smoke/CO notifications you’ll actually see)
- Win #2: Leak awareness (sink/dishwasher/fridge area)
- Win #3: Better cooking workflow (voice timers + a “Cooking Mode”)
- Win #4: Lighting you feel immediately (under-cabinet/night lighting)
- Win #5: Air quality awareness (PM/VOC trend monitoring + ventilation habit)

My two wins:

- Win A: \_\_\_\_\_

- Win B: \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Current Setup Snapshot

Fill this out before buying anything.

- Wi-Fi quality in kitchen:  Great  OK  Weak
- Router location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Kitchen outlets (GFCI near sink):  Yes  No  Not sure
- Range hood:  Vents outside  Recirculating  None
- Smoke/CO devices:  Smoke only  CO only  Combo  Unsure
- Leak history (past 24 months):  Yes  No

## SECTION 3 — RENTER-FRIENDLY ESSENTIALS (NO-REWIRE FOCUS) 🏠

### 🏠 Renter Track: Buy/Do Checklist (Portable + Easy to Remove)

#### **Safety & Alerts** (Renter-Friendly)

- Confirm existing smoke alarm present + working (test button)
- If allowed, add smart alerting (audible + phone notification)
- Add kitchen-rated fire extinguisher (check type + expiry)
- Add stove-top safety habit (no towels near burners, handle-in rule)

Notes / model / location: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Leak Awareness** (No Plumbing Changes)

- Place leak sensor under sink
- Place leak sensor behind dishwasher (if accessible)
- Place leak sensor near fridge water line (if present)
- Set alerts:  Push  Text  Email (choose at least one)

Sensor locations: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Lighting** (High-Impact, Low-Commitment)

- Motion night light for late-night water/snacks
- Under-cabinet stick-on lighting (good for prep)
- One kitchen “All On / All Off” voice command

Lighting goals:  safer  easier cooking  less harsh at night

#### **Smart Plugs** (Only Where Safe/Appropriate)

- Smart plug for coffee maker (if manual switch stays ON)
- Smart plug for kettle (only if safe + manufacturer allows)
- Smart plug for under-cabinet lighting
- Set auto-off timers (avoid leaving heat appliances unattended)

Never automate without supervision:  space heaters  unknown appliances  anything unsafe

#### **Voice & Routines (Fastest Convenience Win)**

- Create “Cooking Mode” routine (lights + timers + music optional)
- Create “Hands-free timers” habit (no more guessing)
- Add shared shopping list (voice add → phone list)

Routine name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

## Air Quality Basics (Simple, Practical)

- Start range hood before frying/searing (habit)
- Optional: add an air quality monitor to learn PM/VOC spike patterns
- Optional: purifier sized for your open-plan area

Cooking that spikes air most in my home: \_\_\_\_\_

## Renter Track: Shopping Short List (Fill In)

Use this to keep purchases focused.

| Category               | Need It?<br>(Y/N) | Works w/<br>Alexa? | Works w/<br>Google? | Budget | Pick / Notes |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------|--------------|
| Smoke/CO alerting      |                   |                    |                     | \$     |              |
| Leak sensors (2-4)     |                   |                    |                     | \$     |              |
| Smart plugs (2-4)      |                   |                    |                     | \$     |              |
| Lighting (2-6)         |                   |                    |                     | \$     |              |
| Air monitor / purifier |                   |                    |                     | \$     |              |

## SECTION 4 — HOMEOWNER SAFETY STACK 🏠

### 🏠 Homeowner Track: Safety Stack (Build the Foundation)

#### 🔥 Smoke + CO Coverage (Priority)

- Confirm smoke/CO coverage on each level of the home
- Confirm kitchen-adjacent alarm placement is code-appropriate
- Interconnected alarms:  Yes  No  Not sure
- Enable mobile alerts + device health notifications
- Test schedule set:  Monthly  Quarterly

Install/test date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

#### 💧 Leak Prevention (Beyond Alerts)

- Leak sensors in kitchen + laundry + water heater area
- Know water shutoff location (label it)
- Consider whole-home shutoff (optional):  Research  Plan  Installed

Water shutoff location: \_\_\_\_\_

#### ⚡ Electrical Safety Basics

- Confirm GFCI outlets near sink function (test/reset)
- Replace worn cords / overloaded strips
- Label breaker for kitchen circuits

Breaker panel notes: \_\_\_\_\_

#### 🌀 Ventilation & Air Quality (Comfort + Health)

- Confirm range hood vents outside (ideal)  Recirculating  None
- Replace hood filters / clean grease traps (schedule)
- Optional: air quality monitor (PM/VOC trends)
- Optional: automation planning (hood/purifier triggers)

Next action:  Clean filters  Upgrade hood  Add monitor  Add purifier

#### 🔒 Family Safety & Awareness

- Emergency contacts saved + shared
- Household plan for smoke/CO alerts
- If kids: lockout/child safety plan for hazards under sink

Plan notes: \_\_\_\_\_

 Homeowner Track: “Safety Stack” Priority Order

Write 1–5 next to each to match your home’s needs.

- \_\_\_ Smoke/CO alerts + reliability
- \_\_\_ Leak sensors + water shutoff plan
- \_\_\_ Ventilation improvements
- \_\_\_ Electrical/GFCI verification
- \_\_\_ Automation routines + notifications

📄 SECTION 5 — “WHAT TO BUY FIRST” PRIORITY LIST

Buying Priority Rules (Use These to Avoid Hype)

- Buy safety before convenience (alerts beat gadgets)
- Prefer proven ecosystems you already use (Alexa/Google)
- Avoid “single-purpose novelty” unless it solves a real daily problem
- Add devices in layers: detection → monitoring → automation
- Standardize (fewer brands/apps = fewer failures)

 What to Buy First (Choose Your Path)

**Path A: Safety First (Most Homes)**

- 1)  Smoke/CO alerting + device health notifications
- 2)  Leak sensors (kitchen + nearby risk points)
- 3)  Simple “Cooking Mode” routine (lights + timers)
- 4)  Ventilation habit + optional air monitor

**Path B: Convenience First (Busy Households)**

- 1)  Voice assistant speaker/display in/near kitchen
- 2)  “Cooking Mode” + shared timers + shopping list
- 3)  Lighting improvements (prep + night)
- 4)  Safety layer (smoke/CO/leak) immediately after

**Path C: Air Quality First (Frequent High-Heat Cooking)**

- 1)  Range hood habit + filter maintenance
- 2)  Air monitor (PM/VOC trends)
- 3)  Purifier sized for kitchen/open-plan
- 4)  Automation triggers (optional)

**My Personal Purchase Plan (Next 30 Days)**

Week 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Week 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Max spend this month: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Non-negotiable goal:  fewer alarms  fewer messes  faster cooking  cleaner air

## SECTION 6 — SETUP GUIDE (TURN GADGETS INTO A SYSTEM)

### Setup Standards (Do This Once)

- Create a naming convention (example):
  - `Kitchen - Leak Sensor (Under Sink)`
  - `Kitchen - Light (Under Cabinet)`
- Assign devices to correct room in Alexa/Google Home
- Enable critical notifications (not everything)

My naming convention: \_\_\_\_\_

### Notification Rules (Less Noise, More Signal)

Check what you want to receive:

- Smoke/CO: Always (loud + phone + backup contact if possible)
- Leak: Always (push + text/email optional)
- Air quality:  Only when high  Daily summary  Off
- Device offline/low battery:  Weekly digest  Immediate  Off

Who else should receive alerts? \_\_\_\_\_

### Recommended Routines (Copy/Paste into Your App)

#### Routine 1: “Cooking Mode”

- Triggers:  Voice command  Button  Time schedule
- Actions:
  - Kitchen lights to 100%
  - Start a 10–15 min ventilation reminder
  - Enable “hands-free timers” habit
  - Optional: play music/quiet background audio

#### Routine 2: “Kitchen Night”

- Triggers:  Time  Motion sensor
- Actions:
  - Low lighting (10–20%)
  - Turn off non-essential plugs after \_\_:\_\_ PM

**Routine 3: "Away Mode"**

- Triggers:  Voice  Geofence  Manual

- Actions:

- Turn off selected plugs/lights
- Confirm leak + safety alerts active
- Optional: send a checklist reminder ("Stove off?")

 **Maintenance Schedule (Set Calendar Reminders)**

- Test smoke/CO alarms:  Monthly  Quarterly
- Replace batteries (if applicable):  Every \_\_\_ months
- Clean range hood filters:  Monthly  Quarterly
- Check leak sensor batteries:  Quarterly
- Review routines/notifications:  Every 90 days

Next maintenance date:\*\* \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

 **Notes & Decisions Log**

- Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- Notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLETION — FINAL CHECK**

- I completed 1–2 quick wins
- I reduced apps/brands where possible
- I set notifications to avoid spam
- I created at least one routine that saves time weekly

Signature (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_