

Home Theater Buyer's Guide 2025 Checklist

1. Room Assessment

- Dimensions:** Measure length, width, and height. (Ideal: Rectangular, 200-400 sq ft)
- Light Control:** Can you block all windows? (Blackout shades needed?)
- Acoustics:** Is the room carpeted? Are there hard surfaces that need treatment?

2. Video System

- Screen Size:** Calculate viewing distance. (Screen width x 1.5 = Viewing Distance)
- Projector vs. TV:**
 - Projector (Best for 100"+ screens, dark rooms)
 - Large Format TV (Best for 85"-98" screens, multi-purpose rooms)
- Resolution:** 4K is the standard. 8K is future-proofing.

3. Audio System

- Format:**
 - 5.1 (Basic Surround)
 - 7.1 (Enhanced Surround)
 - 5.1.2 / 7.1.4 (Dolby Atmos - Immersive 3D Sound)
- Speaker Type:**
 - In-Wall / In-Ceiling (Hidden, clean look)

- Floorstanding (Traditional, powerful performance)

4. Components & Control

- Receiver/Processor:** Ensure it supports 4K/120Hz and all audio formats.
- Sources:** Apple TV 4K, Kaleidescape, Blu-ray Player, Gaming Console.
- Control System:** One remote to rule them all (Control4, RTI, Savant).

5. Budget Allocation Rule of Thumb

- **Video (Projector/Screen):** 30%
- **Audio (Speakers/Amps):** 40%
- **Acoustics & Seating:** 20%
- **Cables & Installation:** 10%

Ready to start your project? Contact Home Theater San Diego for a free consultation.
(619) 595-1757 | hometheatersandiego@gmail.com