November 2026

THE CVT CONNECTION

CONNECTIONS MATTER





WINTER TECH TIPS:
SMART WAYS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR WINTER

Winter in Alaska brings freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and plenty of time spent indoors. While we may not be able to hibernate until spring, a few simple technology upgrades can help make winter more comfortable, protect your home, and prepare you for unexpected challenges.

Smart thermostats are a useful way to manage your home's temperature and energy use. Many allow you to adjust settings from your phone, create schedules, and monitor energy consumption. You can keep your home comfortable when you're there and reduce heating when you're away. If certain rooms tend to stay chilly, smart space heaters may offer added convenience with features like timers and automatic shutoff. Always follow the manufacturer's safety guidelines when using space heaters.

Smart plugs and timers are another easy upgrade. They let you schedule lights, automate holiday decorations, and control compatible devices without replacing your existing appliances. Many can be managed through a smartphone app or voice assistant. Before connecting anything that generates heat or uses significant power, check the plug's ratings and manufacturer's instructions.

Indoor air quality is also worth considering during the colder months. Heating systems can dry out indoor air, contributing to dry skin, irritated sinuses, and static electricity. Humidifiers can help maintain comfortable moisture levels, while air purifiers can reduce airborne particles such as dust and pet dander. Some connected models monitor conditions automatically and alert you when filters need replacing, making it easier to maintain a comfortable indoor environment.

Freezing temperatures can put your plumbing at risk, too. Smart leak and temperature sensors placed near vulnerable pipes, in crawl spaces, or in utility rooms can alert you to water leaks or temperatures approaching freezing. These early warnings can give you time to respond before a small problem leads to significant water damage. Even a basic sensor can provide added peace of mind, especially in areas you don't check regularly.

Not all useful winter gadgets require an internet connection. Touchscreen-compatible gloves let you use your phone without exposing your fingers to the cold, making it easier to check directions or send a quick message outdoors. Portable power banks provide backup power for phones and other small devices, which is especially helpful during long drives or unexpected delays. Cold weather can affect battery performance, so keep your devices charged and consider carrying a backup power source when traveling.

Power outages are another consideration during winter storms. A compatible battery backup or portable power station can help keep essential equipment running temporarily. However, a backup battery for telephone equipment may not power your internet connection or Wi-Fi router. Check which devices your backup system supports and how long it can power them. If you rely on medical equipment, communication devices, or other essentials that require electricity, consider what backup options are appropriate for your needs. Having a plan before an outage occurs can make a big difference.

You don't have to invest in every new gadget to make winter more manageable. Start with one or two upgrades that address your home's biggest challenges, whether that's keeping rooms warm, preventing frozen pipes, or staying prepared for a power outage. A little planning now can help you stay comfortable, protect your home, and enjoy a more worry-free winter.



SMALL KITCHEN UPGRADES
FOR A MORE ORGANIZED HOLIDAY

The holidays are a busy time in the kitchen. Between a turkey taking up the oven, side dishes competing for stovetop space, and guests asking when dinner will be ready, preparing a holiday meal can get hectic. A few helpful kitchen gadgets can take some of the pressure off, leaving you with more time to enjoy the people gathered around your table.

Smart kitchen devices use Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, or companion apps to help with everything from setting timers to monitoring food as it cooks. Many are useful well beyond the holidays, making everyday meal prep a little easier, too.

A smart speaker can be a helpful kitchen companion when you're juggling several dishes at once. Voice commands let you set multiple timers, create shopping lists, convert measurements, and set reminders without stopping what you're doing. Models with screens can also display recipes and cooking videos, keeping instructions handy while your hands are busy.

For holiday baking, a smart kitchen scale can help take the guesswork out of measuring ingredients. Weighing flour, sugar, and other ingredients can improve consistency when making pies, cookies, and dinner rolls. Some scales also connect to apps that track nutritional information, which can be useful when planning meals for guests with specific dietary needs.

When the main oven is occupied, a countertop convection oven or air fryer toaster oven can provide extra cooking space. These versatile appliances can bake, roast, and air fry everything from side dishes to rolls. Some connected models let you adjust cooking times and temperatures from your phone.

Cooking the turkey is often one of the biggest sources of holiday stress. A wireless meat thermometer can send temperature updates to your phone while the meat cooks, so you don't have to keep opening the oven to check. The USDA recommends cooking turkey to an internal temperature of 165°F, measured in the thickest part of the breast and the innermost parts of the thigh and wing.

A temperature-controlled electric kettle makes it easy to prepare tea, coffee, or hot cocoa, with some models offering app-based temperature controls and scheduling. Multi-cookers free up stovetop space by preparing dishes like mashed potatoes, rice, and soups, often combining several cooking functions in one appliance. For more precise cooking, a sous vide cooker uses a temperature-controlled water bath to cook food evenly, with some models offering app controls and cooking alerts.

Before putting any new gadget to work on a busy holiday, take a few minutes to set it up. Download the required apps, connect the device, install any updates, and test it where you plan to use it. If it relies on Wi-Fi, make sure your signal reaches the kitchen. A little preparation can help prevent frustrating surprises when you're already busy preparing dinner.

You don't need a fully connected kitchen to make holiday cooking easier. Even one or two well-chosen gadgets can help you stay organized, save time, and take some of the stress out of preparing a big meal. Whether you're hosting a holiday gathering or simply making dinner for your family, the right tools can make time in the kitchen a little more manageable.



PHONEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST

The winner will have their photograph featured on the cover of Copper Valley Telecom's 2027 phonebook and will receive a

$200 cash prize!

All entries must be received by **November 23rd at 5pm.**
Visit our website for full contest rules.

Enter at **www.cvtc.org/PhonebookPhoto**

UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERAN'S DAY: All storefronts will be closed Wednesday, **November 11th** in honor of our nation's veterans.
PHONEBOOK PHOTO CONTEST: Submit entries by November 23rd at 5 pm for your chance to win $200!
THANKSGIVING: We will be closed Thursday November 26th and Friday the 27th. We wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving!

Visit www.cvtc.org for more information.

WORDSEARCH

Locate the given words in the grid, running horizontally, vertically, or down diagonally.

I T E S C T E M P E R A T U R E S O M B
E C F X T B I K T M N D G L R F Y V W A
H O Q O F I J L Z R B G O C Y J C K I C
R O B T G J Y G B D Q W A B O E L X N K
F A L O Q Y A C T G R P A G A N W N T U
T G A I U P R Q D L T K R V N T T O E P
L K K H D P H O N E B O O K R T T E R M
G L S Q E A B E W N K A H D V Y R E S E
T O O A G I Y C Q T J M C V M I C D R T
X Y P X G K S S S H S H T U R K E Y A Y

1. Winter
2. Temperatures
3. Battery
4. Backup
5. Holidays
6. Turkey
7. Phonebook
8. Contest

Solve the wordsearch, tear off, then mail or drop off at the Glennallen or Valdez business office. Return by the 10th of the month to ensure your entry is included in the monthly drawing. Congratulations to the last issue's winners, **LES SUTHERLAND** (Glennallen), **GARETT & LARISSA WILLIAMS** (Valdez), and **SUE ERVIN** (Cordova). **REMEMBER TO FILL IN YOUR NAME!**

Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

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