Smart Lighting & Plugs

Smart bulbs and smart plugs let you control lights and lamps from your phone or your voice.

Smart plugs: the names to know

Wemo by Belkin: Belkin shut down the Wemo cloud service in January 2026 — older Wemo plugs that were set up in the Wemo app lost their app control, schedules, and voice control. The newer Wemo Smart Plug with Thread still works fine, and it sets up through the Apple Home app on an iPhone — no Wemo app needed, and it never worked with the Wemo app anyway. Setting it up:

1. Plug it in and press the power button. Wait for the light to blink white and orange, back and forth.
2. Hold the unlocked iPhone near the plug (upper back of the phone) and follow the prompts that pop up.
3. No prompts? Open the Home app, tap +, tap Add Accessory, and type in the 8-digit HomeKit code printed on the quick-start guide.
4. Name it by room — "Porch light" — then say "Siri, turn on the porch light."

Amazon Smart Plug: Setting it up:

1. Install the Alexa app on your phone and sign in to your Amazon account.
2. Plug the smart plug into the wall.
3. In the Alexa app, tap More (bottom menu), then Add Device, then Plug, then Amazon.
4. When asked, scan the QR code on the printed quick-start guide (not the barcode on the box). Follow the remaining prompts.
5. Connect it to your 2.4GHz Wi-Fi when asked, then name it by room — "Bedroom lamp."
6. Say "Alexa, turn on the bedroom lamp."

Alexa-only: it will not work with Google Home or Apple HomeKit.

Safety: what never goes in a smart plug

Never plug in a space heater, air conditioner, hair dryer, or electric kettle — they draw too much power and can overheat the plug. This is a fire risk. Smart plugs are for lamps and small electronics: table lamps, floor lamps, fans, radios. Outdoor lights need an outdoor-rated smart plug — indoor plugs must stay dry.

The one setup gotcha: 2.4GHz Wi-Fi

- If it still will not connect, look in your Wi-Fi list for a network name ending in something like "_2G" — that is the 2.4GHz side. Join it on your phone just for the setup, then switch back afterward.

When to call Sean instead

- The bulb or plug will not connect and the 2.4GHz steps above did not fix it.
- Router settings feel out of your depth — this is a quick visit.