BILL'S HOME TECH

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Video Doorbell + Smart Lock — Choosing and Setting Up a Matched Pair

See who's at the door and let them in from your phone, with a doorbell and lock that actually work together

Plain-English smart-home help from:
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Portage County, Ohio

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

A doorbell and lock work best as a pair when they come from the same family. Ring doorbells pair with Schlage Encode locks (through the Schlage Home app) or with Z-Wave locks through Ring Alarm. Google Nest doorbells pair with Yale's Matter lock in Google Home.

Eufy doorbells pair with Eufy locks, and the Eufy E330 is a lock with a doorbell camera built in. Aqara's doorbell pairs with Matter locks in Apple Home. Before buying, test Wi-Fi outside your front door; many locks need 2.4 GHz.

In our winters, a wired doorbell is more reliable, because battery doorbells stop charging below freezing. Install the lock first, then the doorbell, then link them. Give helpers their own codes, skip auto-unlock routines, and always keep a physical key.

Bill installs pairs for $99 in-home, or helps remotely for $49.

1 The Short Version

A video doorbell lets you see who's at the door from your phone. A smart lock lets you open the door without a key. Put the two together and you get something really useful: you can see the home health aide on the porch, say hello, and let her in, all from your chair or from across town.

The trick is choosing a pair that actually work together. Doorbells and locks come from different companies and live in different apps, and not every combination talks. This guide helps you pick a matched pair, install them in the right order, and set them up so they're reliable through a Northeast Ohio winter.

- Pick the “family” first (Amazon/Ring and Alexa, Google Home, Apple Home, or an all-in-one brand like Eufy), then choose both devices from it.
- Check that both devices can reach your Wi-Fi at the front door before you buy.

- A wired doorbell is more dependable than a battery one in our winters.
- Always keep a physical key or a backup way in.
- Set up guest codes for helpers instead of sharing your own code or app login.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> If you already own one of the two devices, start there. Choose the second device to match the app you already use.

2 What a Matched Pair Can Do

When the doorbell and lock work together, a few everyday moments get much easier. These are the reasons most people want the pair in the first place.

- See who's there, talk to them, and unlock the door from the same app or the same phone screen.
- Give a caregiver, cleaner, or dog walker their own code that works only on certain days or times.
- Get a notice when the door is unlocked, and by which code.
- Have the door lock itself a few minutes after it closes, so nobody has to remember.
- Turn on the porch light automatically when someone unlocks the door after dark.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> For an older parent living alone, this pair can be a real comfort for the family: you can check that the door is locked at night and let in help in an emergency. My guide “The Video Doorbell as a Safety Tool” (billshometech.com/guides/video-doorbell-as-a-safety-tool-for-a-parent-living-alone) covers that side.

3 Step One: Pick Your Family

Smart-home gadgets mostly gather into a few big families. Devices in the same family share an app or a voice assistant, which is what lets the doorbell and the lock cooperate. Picking the family first narrows the choices and avoids buying two things that won't talk.

If you mostly use…	Your family is…	Good fit for
Alexa / Echo speakers, Ring cameras	Amazon / Ring	Homes already using Ring or Alexa
Google Nest speakers or displays	Google Home	Homes using Google devices
iPhone, iPad, Apple TV or HomePod	Apple Home	All-Apple households
Nothing yet, want one simple app	An all-in-one brand (e.g. Eufy)	Fewest apps and no extra hub

GOOD TO KNOW

A newer standard called Matter lets devices from different brands work across families. It helps, but setup can be fussier and some features stay brand-only. If you want it simple, stay in one family. My guide “Matter, Explained” (billshometech.com/guides/matter-explained) has the background.

4 Matched Pairs That Work Together

Here are well-trodden combinations, with what each one needs. Models change often, so confirm the exact model on the maker's compatibility page before you buy. That five-minute check is the single best way to avoid a return trip to the store.

Doorbell	Lock	What makes them work together
Ring doorbell	Schlage Encode (Wi-Fi) series	Linked through the Schlage Home app; lock shows up in the Ring app
Ring doorbell + Ring Alarm	“Works with Ring” Z-Wave locks (Kwikset, Schlage Connect, some Yale)	Lock connects through the Ring Alarm Base Station

Google Nest Doorbell	Yale Smart Lock with Matter	Both in Google Home; lock needs a Google device that acts as a Matter / Thread hub
eufy doorbell	eufy smart lock	Both in the eufy Security app
(none needed)	eufy Video Smart Lock E330	The lock itself has a camera and doorbell button built in
Aqara Doorbell G410	Aqara U200 or another Matter lock	Both in Apple Home; the doorbell doubles as the hub

WATCH OUT

Google stopped selling the older Nest x Yale lock in 2026 and now points buyers to Yale's Matter lock. If you find a leftover Nest x Yale at a bargain price, it still works with Google Home, but expect fewer years of new features.

GOOD TO KNOW

Alexa can also act as the go-between. Many locks that work with Alexa can be unlocked by voice or tied to a Ring doorbell through an Alexa routine, even if the lock never appears in the Ring app itself.

5 Before You Buy: The Front-Door Wi-Fi Test

The front door is often the weakest Wi-Fi spot in the house. It's at the edge of the home, behind brick, metal, or a storm door. A doorbell that keeps dropping off Wi-Fi is the number one complaint, and a lock that can't reach the network can't be checked from your phone.

1. Stand outside your front door with your phone, connected to your home Wi-Fi (not cellular).
2. Open a web page or run a speed test app and see if it loads quickly.
3. Count the Wi-Fi bars. Two or more is usually workable; one bar is trouble.

4. If it's weak, plan for a mesh Wi-Fi point or extender closer to the door before you install anything.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Many smart locks only use the 2.4 GHz part of your Wi-Fi. Schlage, for example, says the Encode is 2.4 GHz only. If your router combines both bands under one name and the lock won't connect, that's usually why. My guide “Why 2.4GHz vs 5GHz Matters for Smart-Home Gadgets” (billshometech.com/guides/why-2-4ghz-5ghz-matters-smart-home-gadgets) explains the fix.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

6 Wired or Battery Doorbell? A Winter Question

This matters more in Portage County than in most places. Both Ring and Google say their battery doorbells stop accepting a charge when it's below freezing outside. The doorbell keeps running on whatever charge it has, and it can run down during a long cold snap, even if it's connected to doorbell wires that normally top it up.

- If you have existing doorbell wiring that works, a wired doorbell is the most reliable choice for our winters.
- If you choose a battery model, plan on bringing the battery inside to charge now and then in January and February.
- Never wrap a doorbell in a heating pad or put a heater near it. Google specifically warns against that.
- Check that your doorbell transformer supplies enough power for the model you pick. A weak transformer causes odd restarts.

TIP

For the wiring side, see “Video Doorbell Wiring” (billshometech.com/guides/video-doorbell-wiring-chime-transformer). Renting? “A Video Doorbell for Renters — No Wiring, No Holes” (billshometech.com/guides/a-video-doorbell-for-renters-no-wiring) covers no-drill options.

7 Choosing the Lock: Retrofit or Replacement

Smart locks come in two styles. A retrofit lock goes on the inside of the door and keeps your existing outside lock and keys. A replacement lock swaps the whole deadbolt, usually adding a keypad on the outside.

- Retrofit: easy install, keeps your keys, no keypad unless you add one. Good for renters and for doors you don't want to change.
- Replacement with keypad: guests and helpers can use a code, so nobody needs a phone or key.
- Fingerprint models: handy for someone who forgets codes, but fingers that are very dry or arthritic sometimes struggle.

GOOD TO KNOW

For a parent who isn't comfortable with phones, a keypad lock with a simple code is often the kindest choice. The family can still manage codes from their own phones. See “Retrofit or Replace — Which Smart Lock Install Is Yours” (billshometech.com/guides/smart-lock-retrofit-vs-replacement) and “Smart Locks Compared” (billshometech.com/guides/smart-lock-brands-compared).

8 Install Order That Saves Headaches

Installing the two in the right order means fewer surprises. Here's the sequence a pro would follow.

1. Fix the Wi-Fi first, if the front-door test showed a weak signal.
2. Check the door itself: the deadbolt should slide in and out smoothly by hand without pushing or lifting the door. Smart locks struggle with a sticky bolt.
3. Install the lock and set it up in its own app. Test locking and unlocking ten times with the door open, then closed.
4. Install the doorbell and set it up in its app. Make a test ring and check the live view.
5. Link the two together (in the shared app, or by connecting the lock's service inside the doorbell's app).
6. Test the whole flow: ring the bell, view the camera, unlock, lock again.

WATCH OUT

If the lock jams or runs its motor hard, the bolt is rubbing on the door frame. Adjusting the strike plate fixes it and saves the batteries. Don't just keep trying.

WATCH OUT

Doorbells involve low-voltage house wiring and locks involve drilling or adjusting the door. If either makes you nervous, this is a good install to hand off.

9 Linking Them: What It Looks Like in Each App

The exact buttons differ by brand and change with app updates, but the pattern is the same: you sign in to one company's account from inside the other company's app, and give permission for them to work together.

Ring with a Schlage Encode

Schlage says you start in the Schlage Home app, choose Ring from the list of connected services, sign in to your Ring account, and follow the steps. The lock then appears in the Ring app next to your doorbell.

Ring with a Z-Wave lock

These locks join the Ring Alarm Base Station like any other alarm sensor, using the Ring app's add-device steps. No Ring Alarm, no connection, so check that before buying a Z-Wave lock.

Google Home, Apple Home, and Eufy

In Google Home and Apple Home, you add the lock and the doorbell to the same home with the + button, then put them in the same room (“Front Door”). In the eufy app, devices from the same account simply appear together.

TIP

Give both devices a clear name, like “Front Door Lock” and “Front Doorbell”. It makes voice commands and alerts much easier to understand.

10 Useful Routines (and One to Skip)

A routine is a little rule: “when this happens, do that.” A few well-chosen routines make the pair feel like it's looking after you. Too many, and you'll be confused by your own house.

- Auto-lock the door a few minutes after it closes.
- Turn on the porch light when the door is unlocked after sunset.
- Send the family a notice when the caregiver's code is used.
- Lock the door and turn off lights with one “Goodnight” command.
- Get a notice if the door is still unlocked at 10 p.m.

WATCH OUT

Skip any routine that unlocks the door automatically just because the doorbell sees a face or a car arrives. Recognition can be fooled, and a door that opens itself is the wrong kind of convenience. Keep unlocking a deliberate, human choice.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most apps also let you require a PIN or Face ID before unlocking by voice. Turn that on. It stops a voice through a window from opening your door. See “Everyday Smart Home Routines Worth Setting Up” (billshometech.com/guides/smart-home-routines) for more ideas.

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11 Codes and Sharing for Helpers

One of the best features of a smart lock is giving each person their own way in. That way you know who came and went, and you can turn off one person's access without changing everyone's code.

- Give each regular helper their own code, named with their name.
- Use schedules where the app allows: weekdays 9 to 5 for the aide, Tuesdays only for the cleaner.
- Share app access through the app's “shared users” feature, not by giving out your password.
- Delete codes promptly when someone stops coming.
- Keep one emergency code that only family knows.

GOOD TO KNOW

Write the codes down on paper and keep them somewhere safe inside the house, in case a phone or the app isn't handy.

12 Batteries: The Lock Lives on Them

Nearly every smart lock runs on batteries, usually AA. They typically last months, but cold weather, a sticky bolt, and lots of daily use all shorten that. The lock and its app will warn you when they're getting low. Don't ignore that warning.

- Use the battery type the maker recommends. Some locks don't like rechargeables.
- Replace all the batteries at once, never just one.

- Put a reminder on the calendar to check every few months, especially before winter.
- Find out how your lock gets you in with dead batteries: a physical key, or emergency power terminals on some keypads.

WATCH OUT

Always keep a working physical key, or a backup way in, somewhere you can reach from outside, like with a trusted neighbor. Electronics fail, and a dead lock on a January night is no fun. My guide “Smart Locks — Battery, Backup Keys & Lockout Fixes” (billshometech.com/guides/smart-lock-battery-backup) goes deeper.

13 Keeping It Secure

A door lock you control from your phone is only as safe as the account behind it. A few minutes of setup closes the most common gaps.

- Turn on two-step sign-in for your Ring, Google, Apple, or eufy account.
- Use a strong, unique password for that account, ideally saved in a password manager.
- Keep the doorbell and lock updated. Most update themselves; leave that turned on.
- Consider putting smart gadgets on a separate guest network so they're walled off from your computers.
- Review who has access in the app every few months.

GOOD TO KNOW

See “Give Your Smart Gadgets Their Own Guest Network” (billshometech.com/guides/give-your-smart-gadgets-their-own-guest-network) for the network side.

14 When Something Goes Wrong

The doorbell keeps going offline

Almost always Wi-Fi. Check the signal in the doorbell's app (Ring's app shows it under device health), restart the router, and consider a mesh point near the door. In winter, check the battery too.

The lock won't connect to Wi-Fi

Check it's trying the 2.4 GHz network, that you typed the Wi-Fi password correctly, and that the signal reaches the inside of the door.

The lock works by keypad but not from the app

The lock is fine; the link to the internet isn't. Restart its bridge or hub if it uses one, and check the Wi-Fi.

The doorbell shows the lock, but unlocking does nothing

Re-link the two services (sign out and back in to the lock's account inside the doorbell app), then test again.

15 When to Call Bill

Choosing a matched pair and getting them installed together is one of my favorite jobs, because it makes a real difference to how safe and easy a home feels. I'll check your Wi-Fi at the door, help you pick a pair that fits the devices you already own, install both, link them, and set up codes for family and helpers.

An in-home visit in Portage County is $99 flat, and it's the right choice for installs, since there's wiring and a door to work on. If your devices are already on the wall and you just need help linking apps, sorting out routines, or setting up guest codes, remote help is a flat $49.

- You're not sure which doorbell and lock will work together with what you have.
- The front door has weak Wi-Fi, or the doorbell keeps dropping off.
- You'd like the doorbell wired properly instead of fighting batteries in winter.
- You want caregiver codes and alerts set up for a parent's home.
- The lock jams or runs through batteries quickly.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Pick one family, test the Wi-Fi at the door, and always keep a key.

I want to…	Do this…
Pick a matched pair	Choose one family (Ring/Alexa, Google, Apple, or Eufy) and buy both from it
Avoid Wi-Fi trouble	Test Wi-Fi outside the front door before buying; add a mesh point if weak
Beat winter battery drain	Prefer a wired doorbell; bring battery packs in to charge in a cold snap
Link Ring + Schlage Encode	Schlage Home app › connect Ring › sign in
Let a helper in safely	Give them their own scheduled code; remove it when they stop coming
Stay safe	Two-step sign-in on the account; no auto-unlock routines; keep a physical key
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

WORDS TO KNOW

Plain-English Word List

Retrofit lock — A smart lock that replaces only the inside part of your deadbolt, so your outside lock and keys stay the same.

Z-Wave — A low-power wireless language some locks use. It needs a hub, such as the Ring Alarm Base Station.

Matter — A newer standard that lets smart-home devices from different brands work together.

Thread — A low-power wireless network many Matter devices use. It needs a "border router," which is often built into a smart speaker, display, or hub.

Routine — An automatic rule, like "turn on the porch light when the door unlocks after dark."

Transformer — The small box that powers a wired doorbell. Too little power causes video doorbells to misbehave.

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.

HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full $99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

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