

# F.A.Q



## Apple HomeKit

### What is HomeKit ?

Apple HomeKit technology provides an easy, secure way to control HomeKit-enabled accessories using the Apple Home app and Siri on your iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, HomePod, or Mac.

Over 50 brands worldwide offer products that are compatible with HomeKit and your Apple devices - with more and more on the way....

And now TaHoma too!

### What is the difference between Siri and Home app?

Siri is an intelligent assistant that offers a faster, easier way to get things done on your Apple devices. Even before you ask.

More info on Apple website: <https://www.apple.com/uk/siri/>

The Home app lets you control your smart accessories remotely through Apple TV, HomePod, iPhone or iPad, with a touch, automatically or with Siri.

More info on Apple website: <https://www.apple.com/uk/ios/home/>

### And what does HomeKit mean for TaHoma?

With the HomeKit compatibility, you can control your Somfy home equipment from either Siri or Apple Home app.

- **Siri: simply add voice control to TaHoma and your home equipment, asking Siri from you Apple devices.**
- Home app: Additionally, you can also find your equipment in Apple Home app ready to be controlled from all your Apple devices. Home app is also used to set up your HomeKit installation.

### How does the connection between TaHoma, equipment and HomeKit work?

TaHoma enables to link between home equipment and devices using HomeKit technology.

This link is a **direct local connection between the device used to control and the equipment it controls**. This connection requires specific development with embedded software (therefore local) in each box.

*Note: the usual compatibilities developed for TaHoma with other service partners worked for the most part via the Cloud*

### **How can I control equipment away from home, since this is a local connection?**

On a general basic (= not for TaHoma specifically), HomeKit enables control from away by setting one of the following devices as **home hub** and leaving it at home: HomePod, an Apple TV (4<sup>th</sup> generation or later) with tvOS 10.x or later, or an iPad with iOS 10.x or later set up.

This will allow the local connection to be relayed to the cloud, enabling control from away.

More info on Apple website: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT207057>

### **Which box, and why?**

**Each box generation must follow a specific certification process.**

- **The current certification process concerns the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation TaHoma box meaning the ongoing version, whether you already have TaHoma at home, or you are getting a new box.**
- The 1<sup>st</sup> generation of TaHoma box & Somfy box (both square-shaped), and TaHoma DIN-Rail are not compatible.

New production of TaHoma box have been updated to include the HomeKit specifications:

- The TaHoma factory must be certified MFI (Made for iPhone, Apple licensing program).
- Each TaHoma box is given a unique HomeKit code (QR setup code), to ensure the link to HomeKit.

The setup code is available under each box, and inside the packaging.

If you have already TaHoma at home (or getting one without HomeKit details): it works too.

Just use TaHoma app to initiate the link to HomeKit (see the tutorial on HomeKit directly in TaHoma app).

### **Why 2 methods to connect HomeKit to TaHoma?**

**TaHoma compatibility with HomeKit has to be offered to both:**

- **New boxes produced with HomeKit details (logo and setup code)**
- **And existing boxes, which do not include HomeKit details (for our current users)**

For new boxes

- As any HomeKit-approved devices, TaHoma boxes includes of the details and elements required by the certification, strictly following HomeKit guidelines.
- This includes the HomeKit QR code (setup code) displayed under the box and in the packaging, which is later used in Home app to configure the link.

*Note: The below explanation (for existing boxes) also works for new boxes: starting the experience using Tahoma app, and then linking it to HomeKit.*

### For existing boxes

- Of course, HomeKit is also available for current users, i.e. if you already have a TaHoma box at home, or if you are buying one which does not show HomeKit logo and details.
- It simply can be connected to HomeKit following the HomeKit tutorial in TaHoma app.

*Note: Works also works for new boxes.*

### **Which equipment are compatible with HomeKit?**

**A selection of Somfy equipment is compatible with HomeKit** technology through TaHoma, as per Apple approval:

- **Using io-homecontrol® protocol only**  
HomeKit only allows 2-way radio control of equipment via smart home systems.  
Consequently: RTS equipment are not compatible with HomeKit (1-way radio control).
- **Excluding equipment allowing access to home.**  
HomeKit does not allow such equipment.  
Consequently: gates, garage doors, windows and doorlocks are not compatible with HomeKit.
- **From specific categories: window coverings and terrace for the moment**  
Equipment compatibility are subject to functional validation with the TaHoma box and HomeKit by Apple teams as part of the certification process. Each piece of equipment must be individually tested and approved by Apple's teams.  
Consequently:
  - For the moment: only window coverings and terrace categories are agreed with Apple.
  - And **only a selection of such equipment are compatible** => *see compatibility list.*
  - Potential later additions are subject to further planning from Somfy and Apple, and final approval by Apple.

### **In addition to equipment control, can I access my TaHoma scenarios from HomeKit?**

**HomeKit only allows scenarios created in Home app ("scenes").**

Consequently: TaHoma scenarios are not available in HomeKit.

But: You can create scenes in Home app which include Somfy equipment!