



HOME SPEAKER PRODUCT EXAMPLES - CANADA



A COMPARISON OF DIGITAL ASSISTANTS INSIDE SPEAKERS (JUNE 2018 UPDATE)

The Amazon Echo and **Google Home** product lines have over 95% of the North American home speaker market. Apple just introduced the HomePod six months ago. This chart compares the mini speakers and each competitor's least cost combination Speaker/Smart Home Hub.



	AMAZON ECHO DOT	AMAZON ECHO PLUS	GOOGLE HOME MINI	GOOGLE HOME	APPLE HOMEPOD
List Price Canadian (rounded)	\$70	\$200	\$80	\$180	\$450
Smart Home Hub	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓
Assistant Name	Alexa		Google Assistant		Siri
Natural Voice Recognition Accuracy	✓		✓✓✓		✓✓
Make calls to regular phones	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Receive calls	<i>Only for Alexa-to-Alexa in-app calls</i>		✗	✗	✗
911 calls allowed	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Alarms and Timers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Named Alarms & Timers (Best for reminders)	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓
Shopping & To Do Lists	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Internet Web info (web search by voice)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Portable Battery Option	<i>Add battery powered base</i>	✗	✗	✗	✗
Devices required to set-up and manage your home speaker and digital assistant app	iPhone running iOS 9.0+ (iPhone 6+) SmartPhone running Android 5.0+ <i>iPad, tablet or computer if <u>voice call feature</u> not required; calling feature will not work.</i>		iPhone or iPad running iOS 9.1+ or SmartPhone or tablet running Android 5.0+		iPhone, iPad, or iPod running iOS 11.2.5+



Q. WHY CAN'T I CALL 911 FROM MY HOME SPEAKER?

Calls placed from a home speaker use the internet. 911 only accepts calls from telephone landlines or mobile phones so they'll know your location. (In the US, the Echo Connect turns your Echo speaker into a handsfree speaker for a home phone; you can then call 911 through voice commands.)

Q. CAN I BUY AN ECHO CONNECT IN THE US AND USE IT IN CANADA?

Not recommended. Amazon does not allow Echo Connect to be set-up with Canadian Alexa accounts. It is not designed for use in Canada.

Q. CAN I MAKE PHONE CALLS FROM AN APPLE HOMEPOD?

The HomePod with Siri cannot make or receive calls (yet).

Q. CAN I ORDER PRODUCTS THROUGH ALEXA FROM AMAZONPRIME.CA?

No. Voice ordering through Amazon Prime is available in the United States but NOT in Canada.

Q. WILL THE SPEAKERS WORK WHEN THE POWER IS OUT?

No. If concerned, ask your internet company if putting your WiFi modem & home speaker on a Universal Power Source (UPS) would keep you connected to the Internet.

If yes, consider adding a portable speaker to avoid the need for UPS in every room with a speaker. At the time of writing, the one portable option in Canada is the Echo Dot when combined with a battery powered base (base sold separately by 3rd party).

Q. WHY ARE SOME PRODUCTS OR FEATURES OFFERED IN THE US BUT NOT CANADA?

New products and features frequently need to be tested and established in the US market before the company can justify investing in country specific distribution and development costs.

Q. WHAT OTHER SPEAKERS WORK WITH ALEXA OR GOOGLE IN CANADA?

1. **The Echo (\$130us)** Offers the same features as the dot but with better sound quality.
2. **The Echo Spot (\$170cdn)** Slightly larger than a soft-ball, The Echo Spot offers touchscreen controls, some information display, a camera and video capability.
3. **The Sonos One (\$250)** managed through Echo Speakers (Alexa). Provides very good sound quality but CANNOT place phone calls through the Sonos speaker.
4. **Bose WaveTouch (\$749)** combined with echo speakers like the Echo Dot, enjoy excellent sound quality and manage your Bose hands-free but cannot place calls from the Bose speaker.
5. **The Google Home Max (\$499)**. This has all the Google Home capabilities inside a high-end speaker system.
6. **Google announced Smart Screen speakers will be available by July 18.** We hope to see options from LG, Lenovo, Sony and JBL. Details pending. Canada may/may not be included.