

Aqara Smart Home Info Sheet Series

Aqara Door & Window Sensors Guide

Reliable contact sensors for security, automation, and energy efficiency, covering the Aqara Door & Window Sensor, Door & Window Sensor T1, and Door & Window Sensor P2 (Thread and Matter).

Overview

Aqara door and window sensors are compact contact sensors designed to detect when doors, windows, drawers, or cabinets are opened or closed. They form a foundational part of many smart home setups, supporting security monitoring, lighting control, energy-saving automations, and safety alerts.

This guide covers three Aqara models that serve the same core purpose but differ significantly in connectivity and capabilities:
• Aqara Door & Window Sensor (Original)
• Aqara Door & Window Sensor T1
• Aqara Door & Window Sensor P2 (Thread / Matter)

The original sensor and the T1 use Zigbee and are best used through an Aqara hub, while the P2 is a Matter over Thread sensor designed for modern, cross-platform smart homes and requires compatible Thread infrastructure for full functionality.

Usage & Reliability

All three sensors are designed for long-term, low-maintenance operation.

Common characteristics:
• Instant open/close detection
• Extremely low power consumption
• Simple peel-and-stick installation
• Suitable for doors, windows, drawers, cabinets, and appliances

Reliability depends primarily on:
• Accurate alignment between the sensor body and magnet
• Staying within the supported gap distance
• Stable wireless connectivity, whether Zigbee or Thread

Because contact sensors transmit only state changes, they are among the most reliable and battery-efficient smart home devices available.

Main Features

1. Aqara Door & Window Sensor (Original, Zigbee)

The original Aqara Door & Window Sensor is a simple, proven Zigbee-based contact sensor.

Key characteristics:
• Zigbee connectivity
• Requires an Aqara Zigbee hub
• Real-time open/close detection
• Long battery life, typically over 2 years
• Works with Aqara Home and supported third-party platforms through a hub
• Maximum recommended detection gap of 22 mm

Best for:

• Existing Aqara Zigbee systems
• Basic security and automation needs
• Budget-friendly installations

Battery type may vary by region or revision, so always check the label inside the sensor or the retail listing. Aqara's core spec pages list CR1632, while some store listings show CR2450.

2. Aqara Door & Window Sensor T1 (Zigbee 3.0 + OTA)

The T1 is an updated Zigbee sensor that builds on the original design.

What is improved over the original:
• Zigbee 3.0
• OTA firmware update support
• Improved long-term stability
• Broader ecosystem exposure through compatible hubs

Key characteristics:
• Requires an Aqara Zigbee hub
• Similar size and installation to the original
• Same core detection method using magnet distance
• Battery life typically exceeds 2 years

Best for:
• New installations
• Users who want future firmware improvements
• Mixed-ecosystem smart homes using Aqara as a bridge

If choosing between the original and T1 for a new Zigbee setup, the T1 is usually the better long-term choice because Zigbee 3.0 and OTA support make it easier to maintain over time.

3. Aqara Door & Window Sensor P2 (Thread and Matter)

The P2 represents a major shift from Zigbee to Thread and Matter.

Key characteristics:
• Native Matter support
• Built on the Thread protocol
• Requires a compatible Thread Border Router
• In some ecosystems, also requires a Matter controller
• Uses a high-precision Hall sensor
• CR123A battery
• Supports local automations without cloud dependency

Important compatibility note:
• The P2 does not pair with older Aqara Zigbee hubs such as E1, M1S, M2, G2H, and G3
• To use the P2 inside Aqara Home, a 2-in-1 Matter Controller plus Thread Border Router, such as Hub M3 is required

Best for:
• Matter-first smart homes
• Multi-platform setups such as Apple Home, Google Home, Alexa, and SmartThings
• Users prioritising local control and privacy

Feature availability may vary slightly depending on the Matter platform used.

Accessibility & Ease of Use

Aqara door and window sensors support accessibility-focused smart homes.

For mobility limitations:
• Automations reduce the need for physical interaction
• Doors and windows can trigger lighting or alerts automatically

For visual impairment:
• Audible alerts via hubs or speakers
• Lighting cues based on door state
• Voice assistant status checks, depending on platform

For cognitive or memory challenges:
• Automatic security arming
• Visual confirmation when doors are closed
• Reduced reliance on manual checks

Practical Scenarios

Scenario	Use Case	Example
Home Security	Intrusion detection	Door opens, alarm triggered
Entry Lighting	Convenience	Door opens, lights turn on
Energy Saving	HVAC control	Window opens, thermostat off
Night Safety	Awareness	Door opens at night, light on
Drawer Monitoring	Smart furniture	Drawer opens, notification
Appliance Status	State detection	AC flap opens, AC detected on
Bathroom Use	Automation override	Door opens, disable auto-off
Child Safety	Restricted access	Cabinet opens, alert
Mail Detection	Notifications	Mailbox opens, notify
Privacy Mode	Presence logic	Door closes, resume automations

Aqara Home Automations

Example 1. Security Alert, Step by Step

This automation triggers the alarm and sends a push notification when the door opens, but only if the alert system is armed.

Step 1. Open the automation builder
1. Open the Aqara Home app.
2. Tap Automation at the bottom.
3. Tap the plus icon in the top right.
4. This opens the automation builder with WHEN, IF, THEN sections.

Step 2. Add the trigger under WHEN
1. In the WHEN section, tap Add Trigger.
2. Tap Accessories.
3. Select your Door and Window Sensor.
4. Choose Opened.

Step 3. Add the condition under IF
1. In the IF section, tap Add Condition.
2. Tap Alert System.
3. Choose Armed.

This means the automation will only continue if the alert system is armed.

Step 4. Add the actions under THEN
1. In the THEN section, tap Add Action.
2. Tap Alert System.

3. Choose Trigger Alarm.

Then add the second action.

4. Tap Add Action again.
5. Tap Notifications and Alerts.
6. Choose Send Push Notification.

Step 5. Save the automation
1. Tap Save in the top right.
2. Name it something like Door Alarm.
3. Tap Save again.

Example 2. Energy Saving

This automation turns the thermostat off when a door or window is opened.

Step 1. Create a new automation
1. Open Aqara Home.
2. Tap Automation at the bottom.
3. Tap the plus icon in the top right.

Step 2. Add the trigger under WHEN
1. Under WHEN, tap Add Trigger.
2. Tap Accessories.
3. Select your Door and Window Sensor.
4. Choose Opened For Over.
5. Select the desired time.

Step 3. Add the action under THEN
1. Under THEN, tap Add Action.
2. Tap Accessories.
3. Select your Thermostat.
4. Choose Turn Off.

Step 4. Save the automation
1. Tap Save.
2. Name it something like Window Open, Heating Off.
3. Tap Save again.

Example 3. Entry Lighting

This automation turns a light on when the door opens, but only when it is dark.

Step 1. Create a new automation
1. Open Aqara Home.
2. Tap Automation at the bottom.
3. Tap the plus icon in the top right.

Step 2. Add the trigger under WHEN
1. Under WHEN, tap Add Trigger.
2. Tap Accessories.
3. Select your Door and Window Sensor.
4. Choose Opened.
5. Tap the 3 dots on the right.
6. Select Acting Time.
7. Select Night.
8. Tap Save.

Step 3. Add the action under THEN
1. Under THEN, tap Add Action.
2. Tap Accessories.
3. Select the light you want to control.

4. Choose Turn On.

Step 4. Save the automation
1. Tap Save.
2. Name it something like Entry Lighting.
3. Tap Save again.

Tip for new Aqara users. Start with simple automations that use one trigger and one action. Once you are comfortable with the app you can add additional conditions and actions.

This means you could add something like “WHEN the security system is armed, IF/AND ANY of the door and window sensors open, OR a lock opens AND nobody is at home. THEN point different cameras to certain pre set positions OR switch the cameras to track human presence AND play the alarm sound on multiple cameras, AND play a custom sound on the M3 Hub (something like “You’re on camera & the police are coming”) AND flash all the lights red AND send a push notification to everyones phones

Apple Home Automations

Example, Lights on when door opens (Step-by-Step)
1. Open Apple Home
2. Tap +
3. Tap Add Automation
4. Select A Sensor Detects Something
5. Choose Door & Window Sensor
6. Select Opens
7. Add time or people conditions if required
8. Select lights or a scene
9. Test the automation
10. Enable

In Apple Home, the sensor appears as:
• Contact sensor
• Open / closed state
• Automation trigger

Tips for Best Use

• Align the magnet carefully before sticking permanently
• Keep the gap within the recommended distance
• Use the T1 if you want OTA updates
• Choose P2 only if you have Thread infrastructure
• For Zigbee sensors, place hubs centrally
• For the P2, make sure your Thread Border Router is close enough for a reliable Thread connection
• Avoid mounting on warped or flexible surfaces
• Test automations before relying on them for security

Final Thought

Aqara door and window sensors remain some of the most reliable and versatile contact sensors available. The original and T1 models are excellent choices for Zigbee-based Aqara systems, while the P2 opens the door to Matter-first, cross-platform smart homes.

Choosing the right model depends less on the use case, which is largely the same, and more on your underlying smart home architecture. With correct installation and thoughtful automation design, all three can form the backbone of a dependable, low-maintenance smart home setup.