

NETGEAR®

User Manual

Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle

Model MD200

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202-12855-01

NETGEAR, Inc.

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Applicable to 6 GHz devices only: Only use the device indoors when the 6 GHz band is enabled. The operation of 6 GHz devices is prohibited on oil platforms, cars, trains, boats, and aircraft, except that operation of this device is permitted in large aircraft while flying above 10,000 feet. Operation of transmitters in the 5.925-7.125 GHz band is prohibited for control of or communications with unmanned aircraft systems.

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Compliance

FCC regulations restrict operation of this device to indoor use only when it is operating in the 6 GHz band (5.92-7.125GHz). The operation of 6 GHz band devices is prohibited on oil platforms, cars, trains, boats, and aircraft, except that operation of this device is permitted in large aircraft while flying above 10,000 feet. Operation of transmitters in the 5.925-7.125 GHz band is prohibited for control of or communications with unmanned aircraft systems.

FCC regulations restrict the operation of this device in the 5.925-7.125 GHz band to indoor use only.

6 GHz is available only when the device is powered by an AC adapter and connected to AC mains.

The device cannot be used outdoors on 6 GHz, as required by FCC/IC rules.

When using external antennas, their net gain (antenna + cable loss) must be less than what is specified in "LTE and 5G NR transmission specifications" in Appendix A, "Specifications" as required by the FCC.

ISED regulation requires that the device shall not be used for control of or communications with unmanned aircraft systems. Operation shall be limited to indoor use only. Operation on oil platforms, automobiles, trains, maritime vessels and aircraft shall be prohibited except for on large aircraft flying above 3,048 m (10,000 ft).

In the Singapore market, only 2-pin EU (Type C) and 3-pin UK (Type G) plug adapters are approved and suitable for use with this device.

Revision History

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1

Overview and Setup

This user manual is for the NETGEAR Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle (Model MD200).

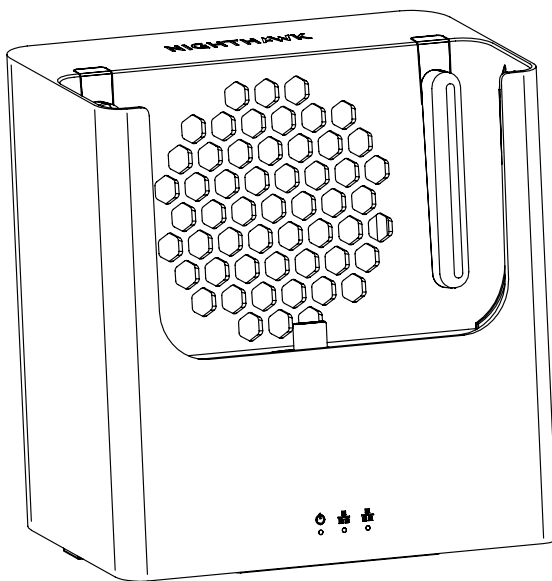


Figure 1. Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle (Model MD200)

This manual describes how to set up and use the Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle for different use cases.

! **NOTE:** This manual might refer to the Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle (Model MD200) as the *cradle*.

The Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle provides a USB-C connection for power with two Ethernet ports for LAN connectivity and a cooling fan for temperature management.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- [Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle hardware overview](#)
- [Connect the cradle to power](#)
- [Set up for charging or high performance fixed use](#)

For more information about the topics covered in this manual, visit the support website at netgear.com/support.

Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle hardware overview

The Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle package includes the cradle and an extra set of grey-colored rubber bumpers to use when your hotspot's battery cover and battery are removed for high performance fixed use.

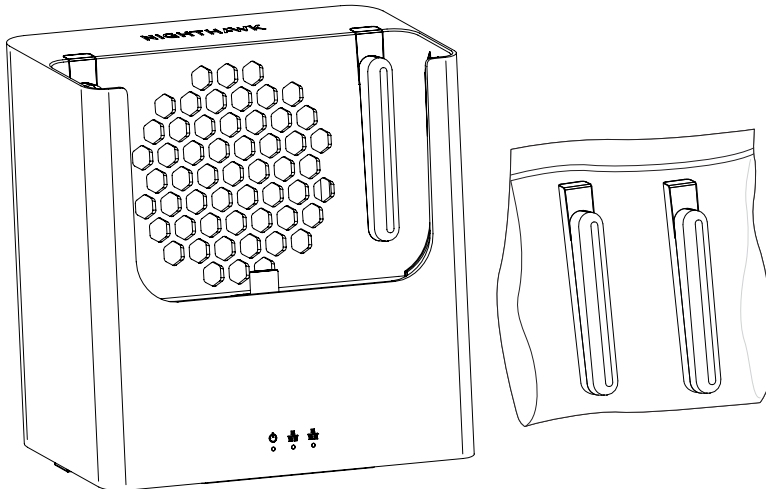


Figure 2. MD200 package contents

The Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle provides a USB-C port, two Ethernet ports, and a cooling fan.

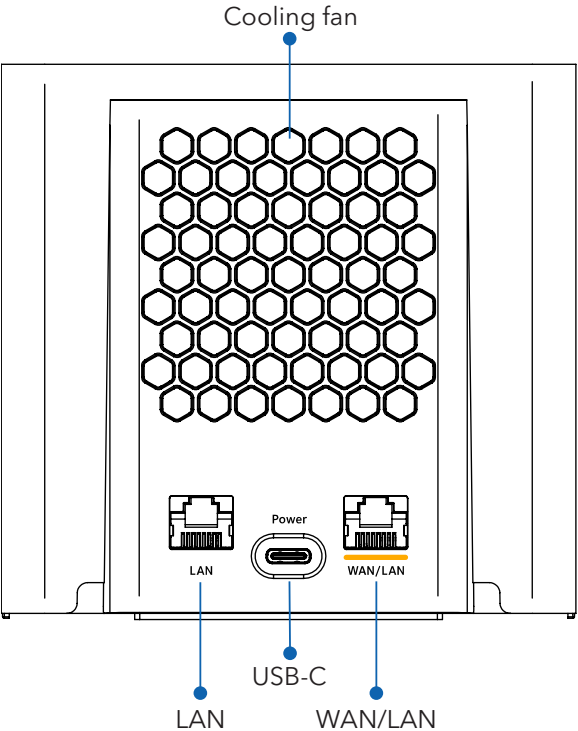


Figure 3. MD200 device

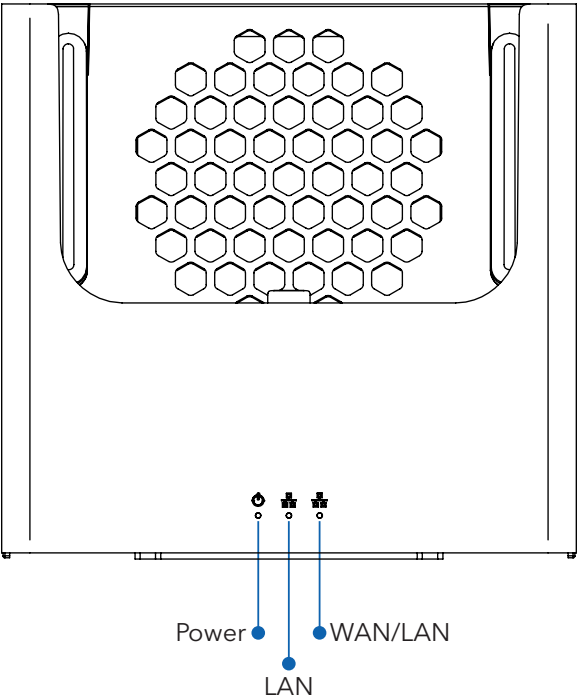


Figure 4. MD200 LEDs

The MD200 LEDs indicate the status of the cradle's power and Ethernet WAN and/or LAN connections.

Connect the cradle to power

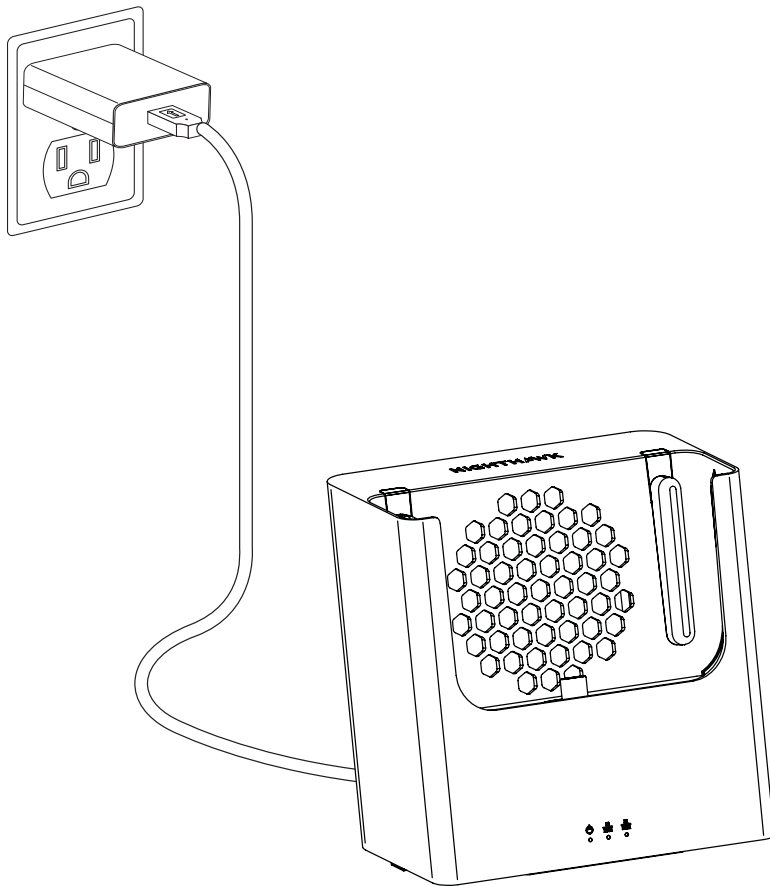


Figure 5. Cradle connected to USB power adapter

To use your mobile hotspot cradle, connect a sufficient power adapter to the USB-C port on the back of the cradle.

! **NOTE:** The power adapter and USB cable that you use with your mobile hotspot cradle must meet certain standards to provide sufficient power. Power adapters and cables included with NETGEAR mobile hotspots are suitable to use with the cradle. However, some third-party products might not meet the minimum requirements. For more information, see [Third-party power adapters and USB cables](#) on page 21.

To connect the cradle to power:

1. Connect the USB charging cable to your cradle.
2. Connect the other end of the charging cable to a USB power source.

The cradle power LED lights.

Your cradle is powered on.

Set up for charging or high performance fixed use

You can use your cradle to cool and charge your mobile hotspot's battery while in use, or you can set it up to use your hotspot for long-term fixed use to unlock higher performance.

ⓘ NOTE: The MD200 cradle is set up for cooling and charging use out of the box. The extra rubber pad inserts included with the cradle are installed for high performance fixed use.

Cool and charge your hotspot during operation

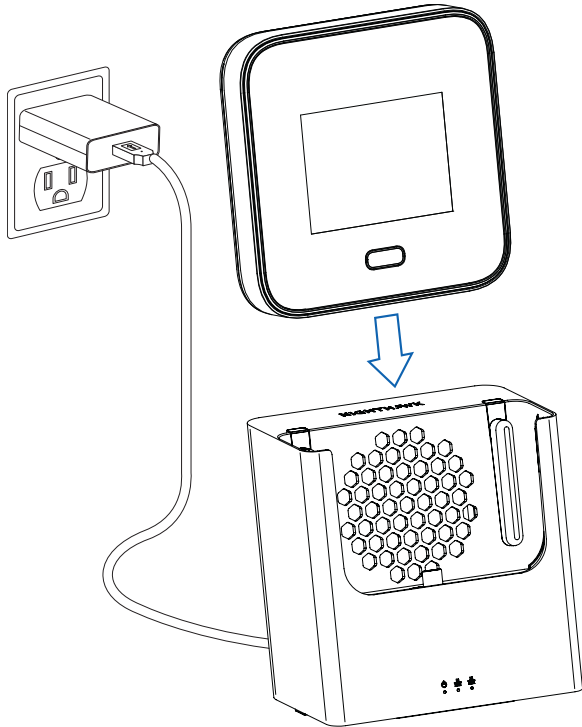


Figure 6. Inserting hotspot into cradle

The MD200 cradle arrives set up to cool and charge your hotspot during operation.

To cool and charge your hotspot during operation:

1. Make sure that the cradle is powered on.
2. Slide your hotspot into the cradle with the ports facing down.

⚠ CAUTION: Do not force or drop your hotspot into the cradle. Doing so might damage your hotspot and/or cradle.

ⓘ NOTE: If your hotspot is powered off, it powers on when inserted into the cradle.

The cradle cooling fan activates.

Your hotspot is cooling and charging.

High performance fixed use

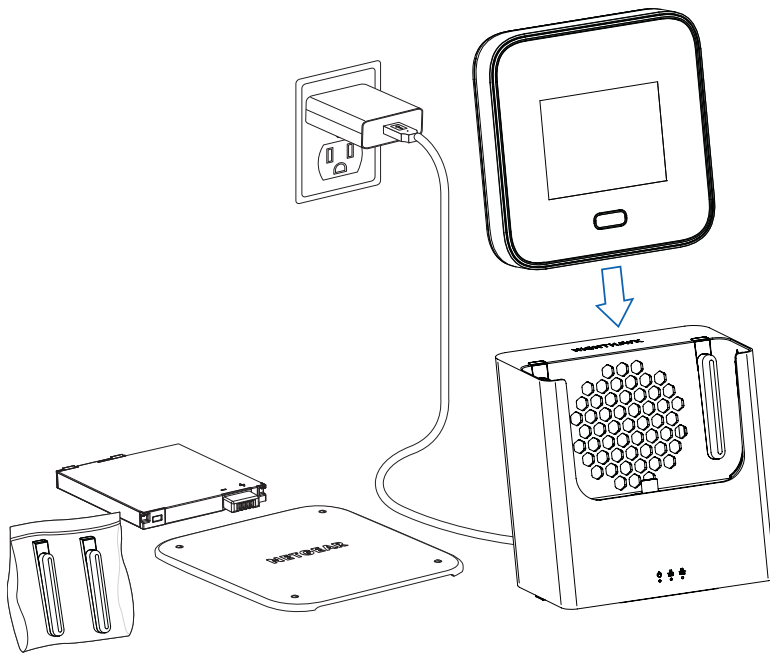


Figure 7. Inserting hotspot set up for fixed use into cradle

If you plan to use your hotspot with the cradle long-term and don't need to rely on battery power, we recommend that you set up the cradle for fixed use to unlock extra performance and preserve your battery's health.

ⓘ NOTE: You will use the extra set of grey-colored rubber bumpers included with your cradle for high performance fixed use.

To set up high performance fixed use:

1. Make sure that the cradle is powered on.
2. On your cradle, slide out the smaller black rubber bumpers from the hotspot opening. Keep these bumpers in a safe place so that the cradle can be set up for charging and cooling again.
3. Locate the larger grey rubber bumpers that came in a small plastic bag with your cradle, and insert them into the cradle.
4. On your mobile hotspot, remove the back cover by lifting the corners.
5. Remove the battery from your hotspot.

ⓘ NOTE: Do not reinstall the back cover after removing the battery.

6. With the battery and back cover removed, slide your hotspot into the cradle with the ports facing down.

 **CAUTION:** Do not force or drop your hotspot into the cradle. Doing so might damage your hotspot and/or cradle.

Your hotspot powers on when inserted into the cradle, and the cradle cooling fan activates.

Your hotspot and cradle are set up for high performance fixed use (also known as Plugged-In Mode in the device user interface).

2

Wired Networking

The Nighthawk Mobile Hotspot Cradle provides two Ethernet ports for LAN connectivity. You can use these ports for various types of wired network setups.

This chapter contains the following sections:

- [Connect LAN devices using Ethernet](#)
- [Expand your network with an Ethernet switch](#)
- [Set up LAN failover for another Internet connection](#)
- [Connect an external antenna](#)

For more information about the topics covered in this manual, visit the support website at netgear.com/support.

Connect LAN devices using Ethernet

You can connect up to two LAN client devices directly to your hotspot cradle using Ethernet cables.

To connect LAN devices using Ethernet:

1. Make sure that your hotspot is inserted in the cradle and powered on.
2. Using an Ethernet cable, connect one end of the cable to a LAN port on the back of the cradle.
3. Connect the other end of the Ethernet cable to a client device.
Your client device might be a desktop computer, laptop, gaming console, or any other device with Ethernet connectivity.
The corresponding LAN port on the cradle lights.
4. (Optional) Repeat steps 2-3 to connect another Ethernet device to the cradle.

Expand your network with an Ethernet switch

To add additional Ethernet LAN ports to your hotspot cradle, you can use an Ethernet switch to connect additional devices.

ⓘ NOTE: Ethernet switches are sold separately. We recommend that you use a NETGEAR Gigabit Ethernet Unmanaged Switch with your hotspot cradle.

To expand your network with an Ethernet switch:

1. Make sure that your hotspot is inserted in the cradle and powered on.
2. Using an Ethernet cable, connect one end of the cable to a LAN port on the back of the cradle.
3. Connect the other end of the Ethernet cable to an Ethernet switch.
If your Ethernet switch uses an uplink port, connect the cable to that port. Otherwise, connect the cable to any available port.
You can now connect additional devices to your mobile hotspot network using the available ports on the Ethernet switch.

Set up LAN failover for another Internet connection

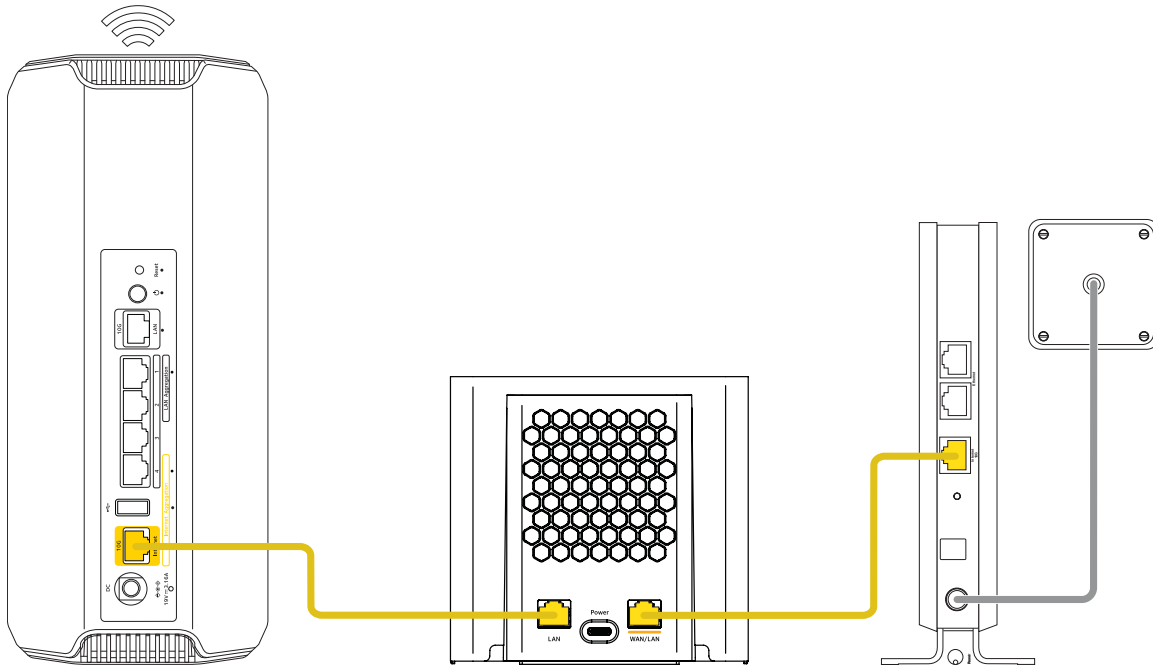


Figure 8. Hotspot cradle set up for LAN failover between a WiFi router and cable modem

For applications where reliable Internet access is critical, you can set your cradle up to transition a primary fixed Internet connection (such as a home cable or business fiber Internet connection) to a secondary 5G wireless connection in case of downtime or instability in the primary connection (also known as WAN to WWAN passthrough).

To set up LAN failover for another Internet connection:

1. Locate the Ethernet cable that supplies an incoming Internet connection to your router.

This might come from a cable modem, a wall-mounted Ethernet jack, or another type of device.

2. Disconnect the Ethernet cable from your router's Internet or WAN port.
3. Connect the cable to the WAN/LAN port on your cradle.
4. Using another Ethernet cable, connect the LAN port on your cradle to your router's Internet or WAN port.

The cradle should now bridge your incoming Internet line or device and your router.

5. Connect the cradle to a suitable USB power source.

❗ **NOTE:** For more information about USB power requirements, see [Third-party power adapters and USB cables](#) on page 21.

The cradle power LED lights.

6. Slide your hotspot into the cradle with the ports facing down.

⚠ **CAUTION:** Do not force or drop your hotspot into the cradle. Doing so might damage your hotspot and/or cradle.

❗ **NOTE:** If your hotspot is powered off, it powers on when inserted into the cradle.

The cradle cooling fan activates.

7. Make sure that the Ethernet Offloading feature is enabled on your hotspot.

For more information, see your hotspot's user manual.

LAN failover is set up.

Connect an external antenna

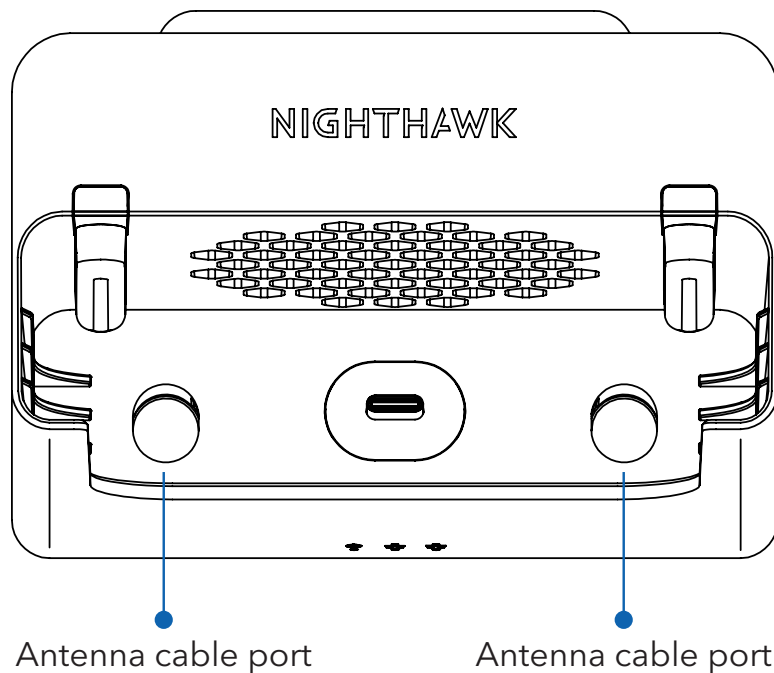


Figure 9. Hotspot cradle external antenna cable ports

Using an external antenna can improve the reception of your mobile hotspot if you have less than 2 bars of reception. Improving your reception can increase your data transfer speeds. The NETGEAR [Omnidirectional MIMO Antenna](#) is compatible with all recent

NETGEAR mobile hotspots and fixed wireless devices, and can also be used with your cradle.

ⓘ NOTE: If you have more than 2 bars of reception, using an external antenna might decrease your reception due to interference.

To connect an external antenna:

1. On your NETGEAR Omnidirectional MIMO Antenna, follow the antenna connectors up the cables until you find a piece of shrink tubing that holds the two individual cables together.
2. Slide the shrink tubing downward to give the individual antenna cables more room to split apart.
3. Feed the antenna cables through the ports in the bottom of the cradle.
4. Before inserting your mobile hotspot fully into the cradle, connect the antenna cable ends to your mobile hotspot.

ⓘ NOTE: You will need to use the SMA to TS-9 adapters included with the antenna. For more information, see the user manual for your mobile hotspot.

5. With the antenna cable ends connected to your hotspot, insert your hotspot into the cradle.

The external antenna is connected to your hotspot through the cradle.

3

Troubleshooting

This chapter provides suggestions for troubleshooting problems that might arise when you are using your cradle. This chapter covers the following topics:

- Cradle malfunctioning
- Hotspot difficult to insert or remove
- Third-party power adapters and USB cables

Cradle malfunctioning

If your cradle is not charging your hotspot correctly or otherwise malfunctioning, check the following:

- Make sure that your USB power adapter and cable are sufficient. Using a power adapter and/or cable that does not meet the minimum requirements can cause your mobile hotspot and cradle to operate erratically. For more information, see [Third-party power adapters and USB cables](#) on page 21.
- Make sure that the firmware on your mobile hotspot is up to date. Certain cradle functions are enabled by your mobile hotspot's firmware.
- Ensure that your mobile hotspot is fully inserted into the cradle and secure.
- Check that your USB power adapter is fully plugged into the wall, and that the cable is fully plugged into both the power adapter and cradle.
- If LAN functionality is intermittent or not working, make sure that the cables are fully inserted into both the cradle and other devices, and that the cables are of Category 5e (Cat 5e) or higher specification.

Hotspot difficult to insert or remove

 **CAUTION:** Never force or drop your hotspot into the cradle. Doing so might damage your hotspot and/or cradle.

If your mobile hotspot is difficult to insert into or remove from the cradle, check the following:

- Make sure that you are using the correct rubber bumpers in the cradle for your setup. The black bumpers are used when your hotspot has the battery and back cover installed; the grey bumpers are used when your hotspot has the battery and back cover removed for higher performance fixed operation. For more information, see [Set up for charging or high performance fixed use](#) on page 10.
- Check to ensure that there is no debris in your mobile hotspot's USB-C port.
- Ensure that there are no loose objects or debris in the cradle opening, and that the rubber bumpers are fully slotted in place.

Third-party power adapters and USB cables

The power adapter and USB cable that you use with your mobile hotspot must meet certain standards to provide sufficient power for device charging and Plugged-In Mode.

For mobile hotspot models that include a power adapter, NETGEAR supplies a Quick Charge 2.0-certified or Quick Charge 3.0-certified power adapter (depending on region) and a USB 3.2 Type-A to Type-C cable. If your hotspot includes a power adapter and USB cable, we recommend that you use the included parts with your hotspot for best performance.

NETGEAR cannot guarantee the performance of specific third-party power adapters or USB cables with your hotspot. However, high quality third-party power adapters and USB cables that meet the following standards should provide similar performance to the official NETGEAR parts:

- Quick Charge 2.0 power adapter with USB 3.2 Type-A to Type-C cable
- Quick Charge 3.0 power adapter with USB 3.2 Type-A to Type-C cable
- Quick Charge 4.0 power adapter with USB 3.2 Type-C cable
- USB Power Delivery 3.0 power adapter with USB 3.2 Type-C cable