

Boost Mobile Today

THE QUICK VERSION

- 1 The towers that reach your phone — AT&T's.
- 2 The computer system that manages your account and routes your call — Boost's own.
- 3 That split is what Boost means by hybrid MNO and its own 5G core.

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Boost Mobile — What You Get on the Newest Network

Boost moved onto AT&T's towers in late 2025. Here is what that really means for coverage, plans, and your phone.

————— **An Extended Guide · No. 1707 · BOOST** —————

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1. What Boost Mobile Is Today

A budget carrier that just changed underneath you.

Boost Mobile is a budget cell phone carrier. Its whole pitch is cheaper monthly plans than the big three, with no annual contract. That part has stayed the same for years. What has changed, and changed recently, is the network your phone actually connects to when you make a call.

For a while, Boost's owner, a company called EchoStar, was trying to build its own brand-new cell network under the Dish 5G name. It was going to be the fourth major network in the country. That plan did not work out the way they hoped. So in late 2025, Boost moved its customers onto AT&T's network instead.

GOOD TO KNOW

The short version: Boost today runs mostly on AT&T's towers. If AT&T has good coverage where you live, Boost will too. If AT&T is weak at your house, Boost will be weak too. Coverage follows AT&T now.

This matters because Boost's own advertising can be vague about it. The ads talk about Boost's network and its own 5G, which is technically true in a narrow way but misleading in the way that counts. The signal reaching your phone is AT&T's. I want you to understand that plainly, because it is the single most important fact for deciding whether Boost is right for you.

Over the next pages I will unpack what the change really means, how the plans work, how to bring your own phone or get a new one, and who Boost fits best. I will keep the prices general because budget carriers change them often, but I will be straight with you about the trade-offs.

2. The Big Change — Moving Onto AT&T's Network

What happened in late 2025, and why.

Here is the story in plain terms. EchoStar, the company that owns Boost, had spent years and a great deal of money trying to build its own cell network from scratch. Building a nationwide network is enormously expensive, and theirs never reached the coverage of the big three. Meanwhile, AT&T wanted the airwaves — the spectrum — that EchoStar owned.

So the two companies struck a deal. AT&T agreed to buy a big chunk of EchoStar's spectrum, and the two agreed that Boost's customers would be served over AT&T's towers going forward. The migration of Boost's wireless customers onto AT&T's network was completed around the middle of November 2025. The arrangement is set to run for years.

GOOD TO KNOW

For you as a customer, the switch was meant to be seamless. Most Boost customers did not have to do anything — their phones simply began using AT&T's towers. The company's goal was no interruption to your service.

Why does this matter to you? Because it turns Boost into something simpler than it was trying to be. For years Boost wanted to be its own full network. Now it is, in practical terms, a budget brand riding on AT&T, much like several other budget carriers ride on the big three. That is not a bad thing — it means solid, familiar coverage — but it is a different thing from what the Dish 5G dream promised.

If you have been a Boost customer for a while and noticed your coverage change, better in some spots, different in others, this is why. You are on AT&T's towers now, not the patchy Dish network Boost was building before.

3. What 'Hybrid MNO' And 'Own 5G Core' Really Mean

Cutting through the jargon.

You may run into some technical-sounding phrases when you read about Boost. Boost calls itself a hybrid MNO and talks about running its own cloud-native 5G core. Those terms sound impressive and are designed to. Let me translate them into kitchen-table English.

Think of a cell network as having two parts. One part is the towers and antennas, the physical things that send and receive the signal to your phone. The other part is the behind-the-scenes computer system that knows who you are, what your plan is, routes your calls, and handles your data. Boost owns and runs that second, behind-the-scenes part. The towers it uses belong to AT&T.

- The towers that reach your phone — AT&T's.
- The computer system that manages your account and routes your call — Boost's own.
- That split is what Boost means by hybrid MNO and its own 5G core.

WATCH OUT

Do not let the own 5G core language fool you into thinking Boost has its own coverage. It does not, in any way that affects your bars. The coverage you get is AT&T's coverage. The own core is a business detail that matters to engineers, not to whether your phone works in your bedroom.

Why does Boost bother running its own core instead of fully leaning on AT&T like other budget brands? Because it gives Boost more control over its own plans, features, and billing, and it keeps alive the pieces of the network dream it has not fully abandoned. For you, though, the practical reality is simple: Boost is a budget brand on AT&T's towers. That is the sentence to remember.

I am spelling this out because clear expectations prevent disappointment. If you sign up expecting some special Boost coverage, you will be confused when it behaves exactly like AT&T. If you sign up knowing it is AT&T's signal, everything makes sense.

4. The T-Mobile Roaming Piece

A backup network, for now.

There is one more wrinkle worth knowing. On top of AT&T's towers, Boost customers have had some access to T-Mobile's network as a roaming backup. Roaming means your phone borrows another company's towers when your main network is not available in a spot.

This was built in partly to smooth the transition, so that as Boost moved everyone onto AT&T, nobody would be left with a dead spot where AT&T happened to be weak but T-Mobile was strong. It is a sensible safety net, and it means that in some places a Boost phone may reach into a corner that pure AT&T would miss.

GOOD TO KNOW

Do not count on the T-Mobile roaming as your main coverage. It is a backup, and backups can change over time as the companies adjust their agreements. Treat AT&T as your real coverage and the T-Mobile roaming as a bonus.

The honest truth is that these roaming arrangements shift as the business deals behind them evolve. Today's generous backup can narrow next year. That is not unique to Boost — it is how the industry works. The steady, bankable fact is the AT&T relationship, which is set up to last for years. The T-Mobile roaming is the kind of thing I would be glad about if it helps at your house but would not plan my whole decision around.

What does this mean for you in practice? Simply this. When you test whether Boost will work at your home, test for AT&T coverage first and foremost. If AT&T is solid, you are in good shape regardless of what happens with the roaming. If AT&T is marginal and you are relying on T-Mobile roaming to fill the gaps, that is a shakier bet, and I would think twice.

5. The Old Dish 5G Network — And Why It's Winding Down

The network Boost tried to build.

To understand where Boost is now, it helps to know where it was trying to go. A few years back, the federal government wanted a fourth major wireless network to compete with Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile. EchoStar, through its Dish brand, took on that challenge and began building a brand-new 5G network from the ground up.

It was an ambitious plan, and parts of it got built. But building a network to rival the big three, which spent decades and untold billions putting up towers, is a monumental task. The Dish 5G coverage never got close to the big three's reach, and it was expensive to keep expanding. The money and the coverage simply did not add up.

GOOD TO KNOW

This is why you may have heard that Boost had patchy coverage in the past. If you tried Boost a year or two ago and it was spotty, that was likely the Dish 5G network. The move to AT&T is specifically meant to fix that.

With the AT&T deal, EchoStar began winding down its own standalone network. Parts of the old Dish radio equipment are being decommissioned over time. The airwaves it owned are being sold to AT&T. For most customers this is a relief — it means trading a half-built network for one of the most established networks in the country.

There is a bittersweet side for the industry. The hope for a strong fourth network, which might have driven prices down, has largely faded. But from the narrow view of a Boost customer who just wants their phone to work, the shift to AT&T is the better outcome. You get real coverage instead of a work in progress.

The takeaway: if your only memory of Boost is poor coverage, give it a fresh look. It is a different animal now. But test it at your own address before you commit, which we will cover a few chapters on.

6. What This Means For Coverage In Portage County

Bringing it home to our corner of Ohio.

Let me bring all of this down to where you actually live. In Portage County, the practical question is simple: how good is AT&T at your house? Because that is what Boost now gives you. Around Ravenna, Kent, Aurora, Streetsboro, and the busier parts of the county, AT&T coverage is generally strong, which means Boost should work well.

Out in the more rural stretches, past the towns and into the countryside, AT&T can thin out in spots, as all networks do. If you live out where cell signal is a daily struggle for everyone, Boost will not be a magic fix, because it is leaning on AT&T's towers just like AT&T's own customers do.

- In and around the towns — AT&T is usually strong, so Boost should be fine.
- Rural pockets — test carefully; Boost is only as good as AT&T there.
- Inside the house — thick walls and basements weaken any signal; Wi-Fi calling helps.
- The T-Mobile roaming backup may fill a few gaps, but do not bank on it.

TIP

The easiest test is to ask a neighbor who has AT&T how their phone works in their kitchen and basement. Their answer is a good preview of what Boost will do at your place, since it is the same towers.

If your home has weak cell signal but good home internet, Wi-Fi calling can save the day. That is a phone setting that routes your calls and texts over your home internet when the cell signal is poor. Most modern phones support it, and I can switch it on for you. It is one of the most useful fixes for rural Ohio homes, no matter which carrier you choose.

Bottom line for the county: Boost is a reasonable budget choice if AT&T is solid at your address. Check that first, and the rest falls into place.

7. Boost's Plans Today — Prepaid, No Contract

How the billing works.

Boost's plans are prepaid, which simply means you pay for your month ahead of time rather than getting a bill after the fact. There is no annual contract, no credit check hoop to jump through, and you can leave whenever you like. For a lot of folks, especially those who do not want a long commitment, that freedom is the appeal.

The plans run from a lighter, lower-cost option up to an unlimited plan for folks who use more data. AutoPay, where the payment comes out of your card automatically each month, usually keeps the price at its lowest. Taxes and fees are often folded into the advertised price on prepaid plans, which makes the real cost easier to predict than a big carrier's bill with its pile of extra line items.

- Prepaid — you pay ahead each month, no surprise bill later.
- No annual contract — leave any time without a penalty.
- AutoPay usually earns the lowest price.
- A range of plans, from light use up to unlimited.

GOOD TO KNOW

Boost has advertised a lifetime price guarantee on some plans, meaning the monthly price will not go up on you. Read the fine print on which plan it applies to, but a locked-in price is genuinely nice in a world where everyone else keeps nudging bills upward.

I am keeping dollar figures general on purpose, because budget carriers change their plans and run promotions constantly. What I can tell you is that Boost sits in the budget tier, meaningfully cheaper than a standard big-three plan, in the same neighborhood as other budget brands. If your current bill from a big carrier is high and you use a modest amount of data, the savings are real.

Before you sign up, figure out how much data you actually use in a month. Most folks I visit use far less than they are paying for. Right-sizing your plan to your real use is where the real money gets saved, no matter which carrier you land on.

8. Bringing Your Own Phone To Boost

Keep the phone you like.

One of the nicest things about a budget carrier like Boost is that you can usually bring the phone you already own. You do not have to buy a new one just to switch. This is often where the real savings come from, because you keep your familiar phone and simply pay a smaller monthly bill.

For your phone to work on Boost, two things have to be true. First, the phone must be unlocked, which means it is not tied to a previous carrier. Second, it has to be compatible with the network Boost uses, which is now AT&T's. Most phones from the last several years meet both tests, but it is worth checking before you commit.

- 1 Check that your phone is unlocked. On an iPhone, look in Settings, then General, then About, for a line about carrier lock. On Android, look under About phone or SIM status, or call your current carrier.
- 2 Confirm the phone is compatible with AT&T's network. Boost has a checker on its website where you enter your phone's identifying number.
- 3 Find your phone's identifying number, called the IMEI, by dialing star-pound-zero-six-pound, or in the settings under About.
- 4 If both checks pass, you can bring the phone over and just move your service and number to Boost.

WATCH OUT

If you got your current phone free from a carrier with a contract, it may still be locked until it is paid off. Check the lock status before you sign up with Boost, not after. A locked phone cannot be activated on a new carrier.

If you are not sure how to check any of this, it is a two-minute job for me. Text me your phone's model and I can usually tell you right away whether it will work on Boost. No sense buying a new phone you do not need, and no sense signing up only to find the phone will not activate.

9. Getting A Phone From Boost

If you do need a new one.

If your current phone is too old, locked for good, or simply ready for retirement, Boost sells phones too. These range from inexpensive basic smartphones up to recent models. Buying through Boost can bundle things neatly — the phone arrives ready to go on their service — but it is worth comparing against buying an unlocked phone yourself.

My general advice, for Boost or any carrier, is to favor buying an unlocked phone whenever you can. An unlocked phone you own outright gives you the freedom to switch carriers later without being tied down. A phone you get on a carrier deal often comes with strings, like having to stay for a while or an unlock waiting period.

- Boost sells phones from basic to recent models.
- A phone bought through Boost arrives ready for their service.
- An unlocked phone you buy yourself keeps your future options open.
- Compare the real total cost, not just the headline sticker.

WATCH OUT

Watch for phone-unlock waiting periods. Some carriers, including Boost, may keep a phone they sold you locked for a period, often up to a year. That means you cannot take that phone elsewhere until the wait is up. Factor this in if you like to keep your options open.

For most of the folks I help, the right move is to bring the good phone they already own and only buy new if the old one is truly done. A perfectly fine three-year-old phone has plenty of life left for calling, texting, photos, and the apps most people use. There is rarely a need to spend on a new phone just because you are changing carriers.

If you do want a new phone and are not sure what to get, I am glad to point you to something that fits your needs and budget without overpaying for features you will never touch.

10. The Unlock Policy And Other Fine Print

The small stuff that bites if you skip it.

Every carrier has fine print, and Boost is no exception. None of it is a dealbreaker, but a few items are worth knowing so you are not surprised later. These are the kinds of things buried in the terms that I like to pull into the daylight.

- Phone-unlock waiting period — a phone bought from Boost may stay locked to Boost for a period before you can take it elsewhere.
- Paying through a person may cost extra — some carriers add a small fee if you pay with a live agent instead of online or AutoPay.
- Canceling may not be fully self-serve — you may need to let the service lapse or make a call rather than click a button.
- Prepaid means no partial refunds — if you leave mid-month, you generally do not get unused days back.

GOOD TO KNOW

These are common across budget carriers, not special faults of Boost. They are the trade for the lower price and no contract. Knowing them in advance turns them from annoyances into non-issues.

The paying-through-a-person fee is one I want to flag for older folks especially. If you prefer to call and pay with a live agent each month, you may quietly be paying a little extra for that. Setting up AutoPay from a card avoids the fee and keeps your service from accidentally lapsing. If AutoPay makes you nervous, I can set it up and show you exactly

where to check it so you always know what is coming out.

The cancellation point matters too. With prepaid, you often do not cancel so much as simply stop paying and let the line expire. That is fine, but if you have AutoPay on, remember to turn it off when you leave, or it will keep charging. A calendar reminder handles this nicely.

None of this should scare you off Boost. It is just the sort of detail I would want a family member to know, so I am telling you the same.

11. eSIM Or Physical SIM On Boost

Two ways to activate, explained.

When you join Boost, your phone needs a SIM, which is the little piece that tells the network who you are. There are two kinds today, and knowing which your phone uses saves time and confusion.

A physical SIM is the small card you slide into a tray on the side of the phone. Boost can mail you one, and you swap it in. An eSIM is a digital version built right into the phone, with no card to insert. With an eSIM, Boost sends you a code to scan or a link to tap, and the service activates in minutes with nothing in the mail.

- Physical SIM — a card that arrives by mail, then you slide it in.
- eSIM — digital, activates in minutes, nothing to wait for or drop.
- Newer iPhones sold in the United States use eSIM only, with no card slot at all.
- Many recent Android phones support both; older phones often take a physical card only.

TIP

If your phone supports eSIM, use it. Activation is faster, there is no card to wait for or lose, and you are up and running the same day. For newer iPhones, eSIM is the only option anyway.

If you have an older phone, a physical SIM is perfectly fine, it just means a short wait for the card to arrive and a small, fiddly step to insert it. That is the one moment where a steady hand and good light help, because the tray and card are tiny. If that worries you, it is a thirty-second job I can do during a visit.

One last note. If you are bringing your own phone and moving your number over, do not throw away your old SIM the moment the new one works. Tuck it in a drawer for a week.

Very occasionally a bank text code or an app leans on the old carrier for a day or two before everything catches up, and having the old SIM handy covers that rare case.

12. Switching To Boost — Porting Your Number

Keeping the number everyone has for you.

Changing to Boost does not mean changing your phone number. Your number is yours by law, and you can carry it from your old carrier to Boost. The process is called porting, and it is the same whether you are moving between big carriers or down to a budget one. Done right, your friends, your doctor, and your pharmacy never even know you switched.

The one golden rule: never cancel your old plan first. It feels logical to cancel the old service before starting the new one, but it is exactly backward. When you start service with Boost and ask them to bring your number over, that act is what closes your old line automatically. If you cancel first, the number can be lost for good.

- 1 Before you start, get two things from your current carrier: your account number and a transfer PIN, sometimes called a port-out PIN.
- 2 Confirm your phone is unlocked and compatible with AT&T's network.
- 3 Sign up with Boost and tell them you want to keep your existing number.
- 4 Enter your old number, account number, and transfer PIN when Boost asks.
- 5 Activate the SIM or eSIM. Your old service stays on for most of the switch.
- 6 Wait a few hours for the port to finish, then send yourself a test text and make a test call. The old line closes on its own.

WATCH OUT

Pick a quiet weekday for the switch, not a Friday evening or a holiday. If the port gets stuck, you want customer service reachable. A Tuesday or Wednesday morning is the calmest time to do it.

Most ports finish within a few hours. Occasionally one hangs, usually because the account number or transfer PIN was entered wrong. If that happens, do not panic and do not cancel anything. Contact Boost, confirm the details, and let them sort it out. If it is still stuck after a day, that is a good moment to call me — I have untangled plenty of these.

13. The First Week On Boost — What To Check

A short checklist so nothing slips.

Once your number has moved and the SIM is working, you are a Boost customer. Almost everything just works, but there are a few small things worth checking in the first week so you are not caught off guard by a feature that needs a nudge.

- 1 Make a test call out and have someone call you back, to confirm both directions work.
- 2 Send and receive a text.
- 3 Turn off Wi-Fi briefly and open a website to confirm cellular data works.
- 4 Check that voicemail works by letting a call go to it.
- 5 If you rely on Wi-Fi calling at home, confirm it is still switched on.
- 6 Log into your bank or email to confirm text security codes still arrive.

GOOD TO KNOW

iPhone users, double-check that iMessage and FaceTime still work after a port. They tie to your number, and occasionally they need a quick toggle off and back on in settings before they settle onto the new carrier.

Keep an eye out for one last bill from your old carrier. When you leave mid-cycle, the old company often sends a final, partial bill for the days you used before the port. That is normal and correct — pay it, and do not take it as a sign something went wrong with the switch.

If you set up AutoPay with Boost, note the date the payment comes out so there are no surprises on your card statement. And if you moved your number from another carrier, confirm in a few days that the old account shows as closed, so you are not accidentally paying two companies at once.

Run through this short list and you can relax, knowing the switch truly took and nothing important got left behind. If any item on the list misbehaves, it is almost always a quick fix, and I am a phone call away.

14. Customer Service — What To Expect

The honest trade for the lower price.

Here is where budget carriers ask something of you in return for the savings. Customer service at a budget brand like Boost is leaner than at a big carrier. You are more likely to be steered toward online chat, an app, or a help website than to a walk-in store with a person behind a counter. For some folks that is no trouble at all. For others it is the thing that matters most.

If you are the kind of person who wants to drive to a store and have someone look at your phone, a budget carrier may frustrate you, and that is worth being honest about before you switch. If you are comfortable with a phone call or a little back-and-forth online, or you have a family member or me to lean on, the leaner service rarely becomes a problem.

- Expect chat, app, and phone support more than walk-in stores.
- Paying through a live agent may carry a small extra fee.
- Keep your account details handy, so any support call goes faster.
- For hands-on help, that is exactly what I am here for locally.

TIP

Write down your Boost account number, the email on the account, and your PIN, and keep them somewhere safe. Nearly every support interaction starts by asking for these, and having them ready turns a long call into a short one.

This is one place where having a local person makes a real difference. A lot of my customers happily save money on a budget carrier precisely because they know they can call me when something looks odd, rather than wrestling with a chat window. The savings are real, and the safety net of a plain-English neighbor who will come to the house covers the gap the big carrier's store used to fill.

So weigh it honestly. If service hand-holding is your top priority and you have no one to call, a carrier with stores and strong phone support may be worth the extra cost. If the savings matter and you have support in your corner, Boost's leaner service is a fair trade.

15. Who Boost Fits

The person this carrier serves well.

After all the detail, let me boil it down to who Boost genuinely fits. If you match most of this, Boost is a sensible, money-saving choice and I would be comfortable setting it up for you.

- Your home and the places you go have good AT&T coverage.
- You want a lower monthly bill than a big carrier charges.
- You do not want an annual contract and like being able to leave any time.
- You are comfortable with online or phone support, or you have help on call.
- You already own a good unlocked phone you want to keep using.

The folks I most often move to a budget carrier like Boost are those paying a big-carrier bill while using a modest amount of data. They are not at a stadium streaming video; they are calling the grandkids, texting, and checking the weather. For that use, a budget plan on AT&T's towers delivers the same bars for a good deal less money, month after month.

GOOD TO KNOW

The AT&T price guarantee on some Boost plans is a real perk for folks on a fixed income. A monthly price that will not creep up removes one worry, and that steadiness is worth something all by itself.

If this sounds like you, the main homework is the coverage test. Confirm AT&T works where you live and travel, bring your own phone if it is unlocked and compatible, and switch on a quiet weekday. Do that and Boost should serve you well without drama.

Boost is not the only budget option — I have a whole guide comparing several of them. But if AT&T is your strongest network, Boost belongs on your short list.

16. Who Should Look Elsewhere

When Boost is the wrong fit.

Boost is a good fit for a lot of people, but not for everyone. If you match this list, I would steer you toward a different carrier, and I will tell you why in each case.

- AT&T is weak where you live. Boost rides on AT&T, so weak AT&T means a weak Boost. Look at a carrier on Verizon or T-Mobile instead.
- You rely on walk-in store service and have no one to call for help. A carrier with stores may suit you better.

- You travel internationally often. Budget carriers are weaker on international features than the big three.
- You want the newest phone bundled in with lots of perks like streaming services thrown in.
- You need the absolute strongest rural coverage, where Verizon sometimes edges out AT&T.

The coverage point is the big one. There is no cleverness that overcomes a weak signal. If your neighbors on AT&T complain about dead spots at home, Boost will inherit those same dead spots. In that case, a budget carrier that rides on Verizon or T-Mobile, whichever is strongest at your address, is the smarter move, and I can point you to those.

WATCH OUT

Do not switch to Boost to save money and then suffer with poor coverage. The savings are not worth missed calls. Coverage at your own address always comes first. Test it before you switch.

The international point is worth a line too. If you fly abroad regularly, the big carriers offer travel day-passes and the budget brands generally do not match them. There are good workarounds, like travel eSIMs, which I cover in another guide, but if easy international roaming is central to your life, factor that into the decision.

None of this makes Boost a bad carrier. It makes it the right tool for some people and the wrong tool for others. Being honest about which you are saves you from a switch you would regret.

17. How Boost Compares To Other Budget Carriers

Putting it in context.

Boost is one of many budget carriers, and it helps to see where it sits among them. The single most useful way to compare budget carriers is by the network each one rides on, because that determines your coverage. Everything else — price, features, service — is secondary to whether you get bars at home.

- Boost now rides mainly on AT&T. Choose it if AT&T is strong for you.
- Other budget brands ride on Verizon. Choose one of those if Verizon is your strongest network.
- Still others ride on T-Mobile. Choose one of those if T-Mobile covers you best.
- Some budget brands let you pick your network at signup, which adds flexibility.

In terms of price, Boost sits squarely in the budget tier, in the same ballpark as its competitors. It does not stand out as dramatically cheaper or more expensive than the pack. Its distinctive features are the no-contract prepaid setup and the price guarantee on some plans. Where it can fall short of the best budget brands is customer service and a few fine-print items like the unlock wait.

GOOD TO KNOW

I keep a separate guide that walks through several budget carriers side by side, including which network each uses and which I recommend for seniors. Ask me for it — reading the two together gives you the full picture.

My honest take: Boost is a perfectly respectable budget carrier, and the move to AT&T made it a more reliable one than it used to be. It is not automatically the best budget carrier for everyone, because the best one for you is whichever rides on the network that is strongest at your house, with the service style that fits how you like to get help.

So do not fixate on the brand name. Start with coverage, then weigh price and service. If that path leads you to Boost, great. If it leads somewhere else, that is the point of comparing. I am happy to walk through the comparison with you at the kitchen table.

18. Common Mistakes And Traps

The avoidable ones I see most.

A few mistakes come up over and over when folks move to a budget carrier like Boost. Every one of them is avoidable if you know it is coming.

- Not testing AT&T coverage first, then being disappointed by weak signal at home.
- Canceling the old plan before porting, and losing the phone number permanently.
- Assuming Boost has its own special coverage. It uses AT&T's towers — nothing more, nothing less.
- Bringing a phone that turns out to be locked or incompatible, so it will not activate.
- Leaving AutoPay running after switching away, and paying two carriers at once.
- Buying a new phone through Boost without noticing the unlock waiting period.

WATCH OUT

The two biggest ones are coverage and number-porting. Test AT&T at your address before you switch, and never cancel your old line first. Get those two right and the rest is minor.

There is also a mistake of expectation, which I touched on earlier. Folks read Boost's ads about its own network and expect something special, then feel let down when it behaves exactly like AT&T. That is not a defect — AT&T is a strong network. It is only a mismatch between the marketing and reality. Go in understanding you are buying AT&T coverage, and there is nothing to be let down about.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you have already made one of these mistakes, most are fixable. A stuck port, a locked phone, a double charge — I have sorted all of them. Call before you stew over it.

The common thread is that a little homework up front prevents nearly all the pain. Check coverage, check your phone, mind the porting rule, and watch your old account. Ten minutes of care saves a week of headaches.

19. Questions I Get Asked About Boost

Plain answers to the common ones.

Here are the questions I hear most about Boost Mobile, with straight answers.

What network does Boost use now? Mainly AT&T, since the move completed in late 2025. There is also some T-Mobile roaming as a backup. Its old Dish 5G network is being wound down.

Will my coverage be good? It will be as good as AT&T is where you live and travel. Test AT&T at your home before switching.

Can I keep my phone number? Yes. Your number is yours. Let Boost bring it over rather than canceling your old line first.

Can I bring my own phone? Usually yes, if it is unlocked and compatible with AT&T's network. Check the lock status and run Boost's compatibility check first.

Is there a contract? No. Boost is prepaid, no annual contract. You can leave any time, though prepaid means no refund of unused days.

Is it really cheaper than a big carrier? Yes, for most people, especially if you use a modest amount of data. The savings are real and ongoing.

Is the price going to go up on me? Some Boost plans carry a price guarantee that holds your monthly rate steady. Check which plan it applies to.

What about customer service? It is leaner than a big carrier, more online and phone than walk-in stores. If you want hands-on local help, that is what I am for.

GOOD TO KNOW

If your question is not here, just call. I would rather spend ten minutes answering than have you switch to the wrong carrier.

20. Working With Bill — Your Support Plan

A real person, right here in Portage County.

I am Bill, and I have been helping folks with their technology for more than thirty years — phones, computers, televisions, all of it. I come to your home, sit down at your kitchen table, and explain things in plain English. No jargon, no rushing, no making you feel foolish for asking. That is the whole job, and it is work I genuinely enjoy.

A home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars. No hourly meter, no surprise charges on top. Whether switching you to Boost takes twenty minutes or a couple of hours — checking your phone, moving your number, setting up AutoPay, and testing that everything works — the price is the same. And if the same problem comes back within thirty days, I come back free to fix it. That is my come-back-free guarantee.

- Flat ninety-nine dollars for an in-home visit — no hourly surprises.
- Thirty-day come-back-free guarantee on the same issue.
- More than thirty years of experience, explained plainly.
- Local — serving Portage County, Ohio.

The number is (330) 200-8042. Call or text any time. If it is after hours, you will reach Sophie, my friendly AI helper who answers when I am on a job or asleep. Sophie takes your name, number, and what you need, and texts it straight to me so I can get back to you. She makes sure nothing slips through the cracks.

GOOD TO KNOW

If I have helped you and you are pleased with the work, the kindest thing you can do is leave a quick review at g.page/r/CSFv0jbCfFINEAE/review. It helps your neighbors find me, and it means the world to a local one-person shop.

Whether you choose Boost or another carrier after reading this, I am glad to help you make the switch cleanly the first time — no lost numbers, no dead phones, no surprises. Give me a call.

21. Your Notes

A page for your account details.

Every switch is a little different. Here is where I write down the specifics for your Boost account, so everything lives in one place. I will fill this in before I leave, and you can keep this page somewhere handy.

- Boost phone number: _____
- Boost account number: _____
- Account email: _____
- Account PIN or password hint: _____
- Plan chosen: _____
- eSIM or physical SIM: _____
- AutoPay date each month: _____
- Old carrier (if you ported in): _____
- Port-in date and time: _____
- Old carrier final bill expected: _____
- Things to revisit later: _____

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep this page where you will find it — a kitchen drawer or taped inside a cabinet door.
Having your account number and PIN handy turns a long support call into a short one.

Bill Davis, Owner, Bill's Home Tech. Serving Portage County, Ohio. (330) 200-8042.
bill@billshometech.com. If anything here does not match what you see on your phone or your bill, that is on me — call and we will sort it out together.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

How Boost Works Now

Your call, from you to the tower

**Boost handles your account; AT&T carries the signal.**

Illustration — layout and details vary by model. Check your own device.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Where Your Signal Comes From

Main network and backup

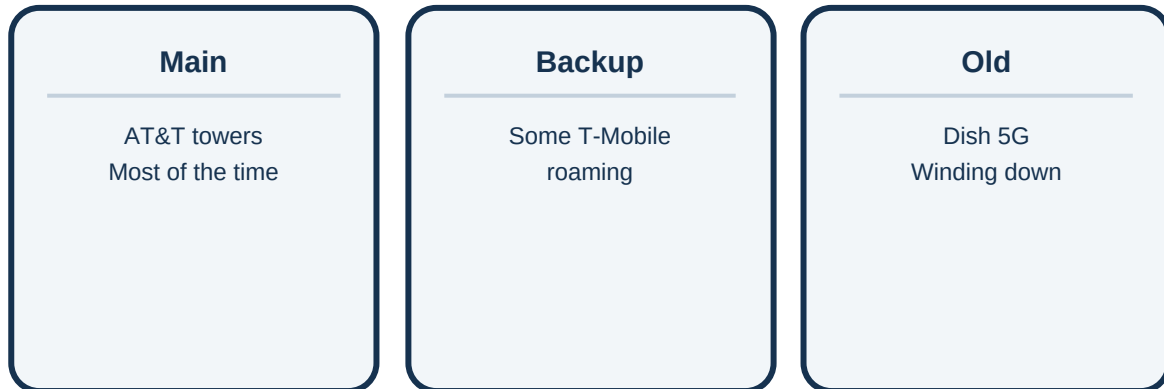
**Mostly AT&T now, with a T-Mobile fallback.**

Illustration — layout and details vary by model. Check your own device.

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

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

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.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com

This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.