



Car Subscription Traps — What's Worth Keeping and What to Cancel

What's worth keeping and what to cancel in your connected car An Extended Guide · No. 1920

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1920 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

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1. The 60-Second Version If you only read one page, read this one. Newer cars come loaded with services that talk to a cell network — emergency help, remote start from your phone, live traffic maps, and in-car Wi-Fi. Almost all of them start as a free trial when you buy the car. When the trial runs out, the carmaker starts charging your card, often with little warning. None of this means your car is broken or that you did anything wrong. It just means you should take ten minutes to see what you are paying for and decide what is worth keeping. The safety and emergency plan is usually the one worth the money. A lot of the rest you can let go without missing a thing. Open the car's phone app and find your account to see every service and its price. Find the renewal date for each one — that is the day the charge repeats. Keep the safety or SOS plan if you drive much; it calls for help if you crash. Cancel radio, Wi-Fi, or remote features you never use, and do it before the renewal date. You cancel by calling the brand's number or tapping Cancel in the app. WATCH OUT Do all of this while safely parked at home, not while driving. Have your car's app open and your reading glasses handy — the account pages use small print. THE BIG PICTURE 2. Why Cars Have Subscriptions Now Your car has become a bit like a phone. For most of the history of the automobile, you bought the car and that was the end of it. The radio worked, the heater worked, and nobody sent you a bill in the mail afterward. That has changed. A modern car has its own cell connection built in, the same kind of signal your phone uses. That little antenna lets the car send and receive information — your location, a crash alert, a weather map, a software update. Carmakers discovered that once a car can do all that, they can charge a monthly fee for it, just like a phone plan or a streaming service. So the car you own outright can still come with a stack of monthly charges attached. Understanding that is the first step to taking control of it.

THE BIG PICTURE

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3. The Free Trial Is the Trap Free today, billed in a few months. Here is how the trap is built. When you drive a new car off the lot, the salesperson sets up an account and switches on every service, all free for a trial period. The trial might last three months, six months, or even a few years, depending on the brand and the plan. It feels like a gift, and in a way it is. But the catch is that the carmaker usually has your payment card on file from the start. When the trial quietly ends, the charges begin on their own. You did not sign up again. You did not get a loud warning. The money just starts leaving your account. This is called auto-renewal, and it is the single most common reason people end up paying for car services they forgot they had. GOOD TO KNOW Auto-renewal is not a scam. It is legal and spelled out in the paperwork you signed. But it is easy to miss, which is exactly why a quick check saves real money. THE BIG PICTURE 4. The Four Kinds of Service Sort them into buckets and it gets simple. The list of services can look like alphabet soup, but almost everything falls into four simple groups. Once you can tell them apart, deciding what to keep gets much easier. I sort them like this, and I will walk through each group in the pages that follow so you know exactly what you are looking at when you open the app. Safety and SOS — automatic crash help, a button that calls for aid, stolen-vehicle tracking. Remote app features — start the engine, lock and unlock, and find the car from your phone. Radio and Wi-Fi — satellite radio and a hotspot that gives the car its own internet. Maps and extras — built-in navigation, voice helpers, and little conveniences. TIP If you only keep one group, keep safety and SOS. It is the one that can help you on a dark, empty Portage County road when you need it most.

SAFETY FIRST**5. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

5. Safety and SOS — Usually Worth Keeping This is the service that earns its keep. Of everything on the list, the safety and emergency service is the one I most often tell folks to keep. Here is what it actually does. If you are in a serious crash, the car senses it and automatically calls a help center, tells them where you are, and can send an ambulance even if you are unable to speak. There is usually a button on the mirror or ceiling you can press yourself if you need help, feel unwell, or see an accident ahead. Many of these plans also help police find the car if it is stolen. For an older driver, or anyone who travels country roads where a phone might slip out of reach, that automatic call for help can be genuinely life-saving. The monthly cost is small next to what it does. **GOOD TO KNOW** Even if you cancel everything else, the safety plan can often be kept on its own. You do not have to buy a big bundle just to keep the emergency button. **REMOTE FEATURES** 6. Remote App Features — Nice, Not Essential Handy, but ask yourself if you use them. The second group lets you control the car from your phone. You can start the engine to warm it up on a cold morning, lock the doors from the kitchen, or see on a map where you parked at the mall. These are genuinely handy features, and in an Ohio winter a warm car waiting for you is a real treat. But be honest with yourself about whether you actually use them. Many people set them up during the free trial, try them twice, and then forget they exist — while still paying every month. If you reach for your phone to start the car most mornings, keep it. If you cannot remember the last time you opened the app, that is money you can put back in your pocket. **WATCH OUT** Phone-based remote start almost always needs a paid plan after the trial. If your car came with a remote start button on the key fob, that button keeps working for free no matter what you cancel.

RADIO AND WI-FI

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7. Satellite Radio and In-Car Wi-Fi The two you can most often live without. The third group is radio and internet. Satellite radio gives you hundreds of stations with no local ads, which some folks love on a long drive. In-car Wi-Fi turns the car into a rolling internet hotspot so passengers can use tablets and laptops. Both are pleasant. Both are also the easiest to let go, because your phone already does most of what they do. Your phone can play music through the car speakers and can share its own internet with a tablet. Unless you drive long distances often, or you have grandkids who need Wi-Fi in the back seat on road trips, these two are usually the first I would cancel. They tend to carry the biggest monthly charges of the bunch. RADIO AND WI-FI 8. A Closer Look at SiriusXM The free trial that calls you later. SiriusXM is satellite radio, and nearly every new car comes with a free trial of it. When the trial ends, you will often get phone calls and letters offering to keep you signed up, sometimes at a discount, sometimes at full price. The price varies a great deal depending on the deal they offer, so I will not quote a figure — check the current price on the SiriusXM website or on the paperwork they send. The important thing to know is that it is entirely optional. Your regular AM and FM radio keeps working for free forever, and your phone can play any music or talk you like through the car. If you enjoy the special channels, by all means keep it. If not, you can let it lapse and the radio in the dash still works just fine. TIP If you do want to keep SiriusXM, call them and ask for their best offer before you agree to the first price. The renewal price and the new-customer price are often very different.

MAPS AND EXTRAS

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9. Built-In Maps and Little Conveniences Often the least necessary of all. The fourth group covers the car's built-in navigation, voice helpers, and small conveniences like sending an address to the car from your phone. On some brands the live-traffic part of the maps is a paid service that stops updating when the trial ends. The honest truth is that your phone's maps — the ones from Google or Apple — are free, always up to date, and usually easier to use. For most people, paying extra for the car's own maps is hard to justify. Keep this group only if you often drive where there is no cell signal and you truly rely on the dashboard maps. Otherwise it is a comfortable one to cancel. I will show you how to lean on your phone instead. One more thing about this group: some brands quietly bundle a voice assistant or a little news-and-weather feed into the same plan, and those are the kind of extras almost nobody misses once they are gone. If you cannot even remember the last time you heard the car read you a weather report, that is a plain sign the whole bundle can be let go without a second thought. BY BRAND 10. GM and OnStar Chevy, Buick, GMC, and Cadillac drivers, this is you. If you drive a Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, or Cadillac, your service is called OnStar, and it also powers the brand's phone apps. GM reshaped its OnStar plans in 2025 into a set of monthly tiers. The figures move around, so treat these as rough guides and confirm the current price with GM or your dealer. There is a basic connected plan at around ten dollars a month, a plus plan around twenty, a safety and security plan around twenty-three, and a top plan around thirty-five dollars a month. On cars with GM's hands-off highway driving, called Super Cruise, the bill runs to around sixty-five dollars a month, because Super Cruise itself adds roughly twenty-five dollars. The safety and security plan, with the crash response and emergency button, is the one I point most GM owners toward. OnStar plan Rough monthly price Connect Around \$9.99 Connect Plus Around \$19.99 Safety and Security Around \$22.99

WATCH OUT

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OnStar One Around \$34.99 With Super Cruise Around \$64.99 These prices are a guide only and change over time. Always confirm the current figure with GM or your dealer before you decide, so there are no surprises on your statement. BY BRAND 11. Toyota and Lexus Connected Services Several small plans, each with its own trial. Toyota and Lexus split their services into several named plans, and each one can have its own free-trial length, which is why people get confused. Safety Connect is the emergency and crash-help plan — that is the safety one. Service Connect sends maintenance reminders and vehicle health reports. Remote Connect is the phone app that starts the engine and locks the doors. Drive Connect adds the fancier maps and a voice helper. And the Wi-Fi plan turns the car into a hotspot. The prices vary by plan and model, so check the current figures in the Toyota or Lexus app. My advice is the same as always: keep Safety Connect if the price suits you, look hard at whether you really use Remote Connect, and let the Wi-Fi and the extras go unless they earn their keep. Safety Connect — automatic crash help and the SOS button; the safety plan. Service Connect — maintenance and health reminders. Remote Connect — start, lock, and find the car from your phone. Drive Connect — upgraded maps and voice help. Wi-Fi — in-car internet hotspot.

BY BRAND

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12. Ford and FordPass The blue-oval app, explained. Ford's services run through an app called FordPass, and Lincoln has its own version with a different name. The app shows your fuel or charge level, lets you lock and unlock, and — if you keep the paid plan — lets you start the engine from your phone. As with the others, the remote features lean on a connected-services plan after the free trial runs out. Ford has sold various bundles over the years, and the names and prices shift, so check what your app shows under your account. The pattern to remember holds true here: the key-fob remote start, if your truck or car came with one, keeps working for free; the phone-app remote start is the part that needs the paid plan. Ford has also been building more of these features into what it calls Ford Power-Up updates, which arrive over the air like a phone update, so the app may look a little different from one season to the next. Do not let a changed screen worry you — the account and subscription pages are still in there, usually under a menu button in the corner, and the price you are paying is shown right alongside each service once you find it.

BY BRAND 13. Hyundai Bluelink and Kia Connect Two sister brands, one familiar pattern. Hyundai calls its service Bluelink and Kia calls its version Kia Connect, but they work in much the same way because the two companies are related. You get a free trial when the car is new, covering the safety features, the remote app, and sometimes the maps. When the trial ends, the plans split into pieces you can pay for separately. The emergency and crash-help part is the safety piece, and it is the one I suggest keeping. The remote app and the map extras are optional. Prices vary by plan, so look in the Bluelink or Kia Connect app or on the brand's website for the current figures. Do not assume the whole bundle must be renewed together — you can usually keep just the safety piece.

BY BRAND

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14. Subaru Starlink Not the internet dish — the car service. Subaru's connected service is called Starlink, which trips people up because that is also the name of a satellite internet company owned by someone else entirely. They are not the same thing. Subaru Starlink is the safety and remote service for your Outback, Forester, or Crosstrek. It comes in a safety plan, which handles crash response and the emergency button, and a remote or security plan that adds phone features. The safety plan often comes with a generous free trial, and keeping it afterward is reasonable, especially out here where the roads get lonely in winter. The remote features are optional. Check the current prices in the Subaru Starlink app, and remember that the safety piece can usually stand on its own. Because Subaru sells so well to folks who like the outdoors and back roads, the safety plan tends to be the one owners value most, and I would not fault anyone around here for keeping it through an Ohio winter. Just be sure you know which plan is which before the trial ends, so you keep the crash-help piece and not only the convenience features. BY BRAND 15. BMW

ConnectedDrive Remember the heated-seats fuss? BMW's services go under the name ConnectedDrive. A few years ago BMW made headlines by trying to charge a monthly subscription to turn on heated seats in cars that already had the heaters built in. People were rightly annoyed at paying monthly for a warm seat, and in 2023 BMW dropped that idea. So you need not worry about a surprise bill for your seat warmers. What remains are the usual connected services — remote app features, live traffic for the maps, and various conveniences — each with its own trial and renewal. The approach is the same as with any brand: see what you are paying in the My BMW app, keep what you use, and let the rest lapse. Confirm any price in the app rather than trusting an old figure. GOOD TO KNOW The heated-seats subscription is gone, but it is a useful reminder: always read what a feature costs before you agree to it, because carmakers keep trying new ideas.

BY BRAND

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16. Mercedes me Yes, one model charges for more speed. Mercedes-Benz runs its services through an app called Mercedes me. Most of it is the familiar list — remote features, maps, emergency help. One item raised eyebrows: on certain Mercedes electric cars, you can pay a yearly subscription called Acceleration Increase that makes the car speed up a little quicker, even though the car is physically capable of it already. It is an optional extra and most owners never touch it, but it shows how far this subscription idea can go. For the rest of us, the advice holds: open Mercedes me, check what each service costs, keep the safety and the features you use, and cancel the rest. Do not pay for a feature you will not notice. BY BRAND 17. Volkswagen Car-Net The German people's car, connected. Volkswagen's connected service is called Car-Net. Like the others, it bundles safety features, remote app control, and some conveniences, all starting with a free trial that later turns into a paid plan. The safety and emergency portion is the piece worth weighing carefully; the remote app features are the optional part. Volkswagen has changed the plan names and prices more than once, so the smart move is simply to open the VW app, sign in, and read what it shows under your account rather than relying on any figure you heard elsewhere. By now you can probably guess my advice: keep the emergency help if the price is fair, and let go of anything you do not actually reach for.

SEEING THE CHARGES

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18. How to See What You're Paying You cannot fix what you cannot see. Before you decide anything, you need a clear picture of what is on your bill. There are two good ways to find it. The first is the car's phone app — every brand has one, and it is where your account and your list of services live. The second is your bank or credit card statement, where the actual charges show up each month. I like to check both, because sometimes a charge on the statement reminds you of a service you forgot was in the app. Give yourself ten quiet minutes at the kitchen table, parked at home, with your reading glasses and your phone. You are just gathering information at this stage — no need to cancel anything yet.

- 1 Open your car's phone app and sign in with your account.

- 2 Find the section called Account, Subscriptions, Services, or Plans.
- 3 Write down each service, its monthly price, and its renewal date.
- 4 Open your bank or card statement and look for charges from the carmaker.
- 5 Match the statement charges to the services so nothing is a mystery. **SEEING THE CHARGES** 19. Finding the Renewal Date This is the date that matters most. The renewal date is the day a service bills you again. It is the most important date to know, because if you want to cancel without wasting money, you do it before that date arrives. You can usually find the renewal date in three places: on the account page in the car's app, in the confirmation email you got when the service started, and sometimes in a reminder letter the carmaker mails out. If you cannot find it anywhere, call the brand's customer line and simply ask when your next charge is due. They can tell you in a minute. Once you know the date, jot it on your calendar so it does not sneak up on you. **TIP** Write the renewal date on your paper calendar or ask me to set a reminder on your phone. A note a week ahead gives you time to decide calmly.

MAKING THE CALL

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20. Keep It or Cancel It A few honest questions settle most of this. Deciding what to keep does not need to be complicated. For each service, ask yourself a short handful of plain questions. If a service is about safety, the answer leans toward keeping it. If it is a convenience you never use, the answer leans toward letting it go. There is no wrong choice here — it is your money and your car. The goal is simply to stop paying for things you forgot you had, while holding on to the one or two that genuinely help you. Go down your list one service at a time and give each an honest yes or no. Does this keep me safer in an emergency? If yes, lean toward keeping it. Have I actually used it in the last couple of months? Can my phone already do the same thing for free? Is the monthly price fair for how often I use it? Would I miss it tomorrow if it were gone? **MAKING THE CALL** 21. A Simple Keep-or-Cancel Table My rough starting point for most folks. Here is a plain table to get you started. It is only a starting point — your life and your driving are your own, so adjust it to fit. But for most of the people I help around Portage County, this is how the choices tend to shake out. Use it as a gentle guide, not a rule. **Service** My general suggestion **Safety and SOS** Keep if the price is fair **Phone remote start and lock** Keep only if you use it **Satellite radio** Usually let it lapse **In-car Wi-Fi** Cancel unless you road-trip often **Built-in maps extras** Cancel and use your phone

CANCELING

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22. How to Cancel a Service It is easier than the carmakers make it feel. Canceling is usually done one of two ways: a phone call to the brand's customer line, or a few taps in the car's app. The app is quickest when it offers a clear Cancel button, but some brands hide it or make you call, hoping you will give up. Do not let that stop you. When you call, you may be offered a discount to stay — that is fine if you truly want the service at the lower price, but you are allowed to say no thank you and cancel anyway. Be polite, be firm, and ask them to confirm the cancellation in writing or by email. Keep that confirmation until you have seen one more statement with no charge on it.

- 1 Open the app and look for a Cancel or Manage Subscription button first.
 - 2 If there is none, find the brand's customer phone number in the app or online.
 - 3 Call and clearly say you want to cancel the specific service.
 - 4 Decline any retention offer you do not want, politely but firmly.
 - 5 Ask for an email or written confirmation and save it. **WATCH OUT** Check your next statement after canceling. Now and then a charge slips through, and the saved confirmation is your proof to get it refunded.
- CANCELING 23. When They Try to Keep You** A discount offer is not a reason to stay. When you try to cancel, the person on the phone is often trained to keep you. They may offer a lower price, a few free months, or a bigger bundle for the same money. This is normal, and it is not a trick — but it only matters if you actually wanted the service in the first place. If you were canceling radio because you never listen, a cheaper radio plan still gets you nothing you use. Decide what you want before you call, and hold to it. A good question to ask yourself is simple: if this were truly free, would I even bother turning it on? If the honest answer is no, then no discount makes it worth keeping.

SPECIAL CASES

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24. If You Bought a Used Car The services may still be in someone else's name. A used car is a common source of confusion. The services are often still tied to the previous owner's account, which means you cannot see or control them until they are moved into your name. Sometimes the old owner's plan simply lapses and the car goes quiet; other times a trial transfers to you and you may not even realize it. The fix is to call the brand or visit a dealer with your paperwork and ask them to set up a fresh account in your name. Once that is done, you can see the services, start any trials you are entitled to, and decide what to keep — just as a new-car buyer would. Do not assume a used car has no subscriptions attached; check. **GOOD TO KNOW** When you buy used, ask the dealer to help transfer or reset the connected account before you drive off. It saves a headache later. **SPECIAL CASES** 25. If You Sell or Trade In the Car Don't leave your account riding along. The flip side matters too. When you sell or trade in a car, you should remove it from your account so the new owner cannot see your information and so your services do not keep billing you. In the car's app there is usually an option to remove the vehicle from your account. Do that before the car leaves your hands if you can. It also protects your privacy, because a connected car can hold your saved home address and your travel history. A minute spent clearing yourself out of the car is a minute well spent. If you are not sure how, the dealer can do it when you hand over the keys.

EVERYDAY TECH

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26. What Your Phone Already Does for Free You may be paying twice without knowing it. A big reason so many car subscriptions are easy to cancel is that your phone already does the same jobs at no extra cost. Your phone plays music through the car speakers. Your phone has free maps with live traffic that update themselves. Your phone can share its own internet with a tablet, which is the same thing in-car Wi-Fi does. And your phone has an emergency call feature of its own. None of this fully replaces the car's automatic crash response — that is the one real exception — but for radio, maps, and internet, your phone covers you. Before you renew anything, ask whether the phone in your pocket already handles it. Music and talk — play from your phone through the car speakers. Maps and traffic — free and always current from Google or Apple. Internet for a tablet — share your phone's connection instead of car Wi-Fi. Finding your parked car — your phone can often do this on its own. EVERYDAY TECH 27. The One Phones Can't Fully Replace Automatic crash help stands alone. I want to be fair and clear about the exception. Your phone can call 911, and newer phones can even detect a hard crash and call for help on their own. That is wonderful and worth setting up. But the car's safety service does something a little extra: it is built into the vehicle, it knows the car's exact location and which airbags went off, and it connects you to a help center trained for exactly this. For someone who drives often, drives alone, or travels rural roads, that built-in crash response can be the deciding reason to keep the safety plan. It is the one service where paying a little each month buys real peace of mind that the phone does not fully match.

STAYING IN CONTROL

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28. A Yearly Subscription Checkup Fifteen minutes once a year keeps you honest. The best habit I can give you is a once-a-year checkup. Pick a date that is easy to remember — your birthday, or the first of the year — and spend fifteen minutes going through your car's services the same way we did earlier. Prices change, trials end, and a feature you once loved may sit unused a year later. A yearly look keeps you from drifting back into paying for things you forgot about. It is the same idea as checking your other bills now and then to make sure nothing crept up. Put it on the calendar once and it becomes a painless little ritual. GOOD TO KNOW Tie the checkup to something you already do yearly, like changing the smoke-alarm batteries. One reminder, two good habits. STAYING IN CONTROL 29. Watch Your Statements and Stay Safe The bill tells the truth even when the app doesn't. Your bank or credit card statement is an honest friend in all of this. Even if you lose track of what is in the car's app, the statement shows exactly what is leaving your account each month. Get in the habit of glancing down the list once a month for charges from the carmaker or from a radio or connected-car service. If you spot one you do not recognize or thought you had canceled, that is your cue to look into it. Catching a stray charge early means a quick fix rather than months of quiet payments. You do not need to study every line — just keep an eye out for the car-related ones, and if one puzzles you, write down the name exactly as it appears so you can ask about it later. While you are at it, give a thought to the account itself. Your connected-car account is a real account, with a password, your contact details, and a payment card attached. Treat it with the same care you give your email or your bank login. Use a password you do not use anywhere else, and if you ever get a call or email claiming to be from the carmaker asking for your password or card number, be cautious — real companies do not ask that way. If you are unsure whether a message is genuine, do not click or reply; look up the brand's number yourself and call them directly. Keeping the account tidy and secure protects both your money and your privacy.

WATCH OUT

18. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

Scammers sometimes pose as car-service renewals to grab your card number. If a renewal message feels off, stop and call the brand using a number you look up yourself.

COMMON WORRIES 30. Will Canceling Break My Car? No — the car itself keeps working. This is a worry I hear often, and the answer is reassuring. Canceling a subscription does not stop your car from running, starting, or driving. The engine, the brakes, the heater, the regular radio, and the key-fob buttons all keep working exactly as before. What stops are the connected extras — the phone app features, the live traffic, the satellite radio, the automatic crash call. Those are services layered on top of the car, not the car itself. So you can cancel with confidence, knowing your vehicle is every bit as capable the day after as it was the day before. The only thing you give up is the specific service you chose to let go, and even the dashboard screen, the backup camera, and the Bluetooth for your phone keep right on working because those live in the car and do not need a subscription at all. A close cousin of that worry is the fear that canceling is permanent. It is not. If you let a service lapse and later decide you want it back, you can almost always sign up again through the app or by calling the brand. You might lose a special trial price, but the service itself is there waiting for you. This means you can cancel without fear. If you cancel the Wi-Fi and then plan a long road trip with the grandkids next summer, you can simply turn it on again for that trip and switch it off when you return home. Nothing is burned behind you, and no door is locked for good. Knowing that makes it much easier to let go of the things you are simply not using in this season of your life.

COMMON WORRIES

19. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

31. I Can't Find Where to Cancel When the app hides the button. Some brands make the Cancel button hard to find on purpose, hoping you will give up and keep paying. Do not take the bait. If you have hunted through the app and cannot find a way to cancel, the surest path is the telephone. Look up the brand's customer service number — on the official website, in the app, or in your owner's paperwork — and call. Tell them plainly that you want to cancel a service and you cannot find the option in the app. They can do it for you on the spot. If the whole thing feels like a maze, that is exactly the sort of errand I am glad to sit with you and sort out. GOOD TO KNOW Keep the brand's phone number written down somewhere handy. When the app fights you, a two-minute call ends the matter.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER 32. Your Ten-Minute Action Plan Everything in this guide, boiled down to a list. Let us pull the whole guide into one short plan you can follow at the kitchen table. Do these steps in order, parked safely at home, and you will have taken full control of your car's subscriptions in about ten minutes. There is no rush and no wrong answer. Each step just moves you a little closer to paying only for what you truly want.

- 1 Open the car's app and list every service with its price and renewal date.
- 2 Check your bank statement for any car-related charges you missed.
- 3 Mark the safety or SOS plan as keep if the price suits you.
- 4 Mark radio, Wi-Fi, and unused remote features as cancel.
- 5 Cancel the ones you chose, through the app or by phone, before their renewal dates.
- 6 Save every cancellation confirmation and check the next statement. GOOD TO KNOW You do not have to do all of this today. Even just finding your renewal dates is a solid first step. The rest can wait for another quiet afternoon.

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

20. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech

33. You Don't Have to Remember All This That is exactly what I am here for. If this feels like a lot to hold in your head, please do not fret. You do not have to memorize plan names, prices, or which button hides where. That is my job, not yours. Keep this guide in the glovebox or on the kitchen counter, and pull it out when a renewal letter arrives or a charge puzzles you. The one idea worth remembering is the simplest one: you are allowed to keep only what you use, and the safety plan is usually the keeper. Everything else can go whenever you decide it should. Take it one service at a time, and know that help is only a phone call away. GET HELP

34. When to Call Bill Let's go through it together, no pressure. If any of this feels like more than you want to tackle alone, that is exactly what I am for. I have been helping folks around Portage County with their home and car technology for more than thirty years, and sorting out confusing subscriptions is one of my favorite things to do, because people are always so relieved afterward. In a short visit, we can sit down together, open your car's app, and go through every service line by line. I will explain what each one does in plain words, help you decide what is worth keeping, and handle the cancellations with you so nothing is left hanging. There is never any pressure to keep or cancel anything — it is your money and your choice, and I am just there to make the whole thing clear. You can reach me at (330) 200-8042, and my assistant Sophie can help set up a time that suits you. I come to you, whether that is your kitchen table or your driveway with the car right there. And I stand behind my work with a friendly guarantee: if something is not sorted to your satisfaction, we keep at it until it is. There is no such thing as a silly question here. If a renewal letter has you worried, or a charge showed up that you cannot explain, give me a call and we will get to the bottom of it together.

CHEAT SHEET**21. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task. I want to... Do this I want to see what I'm paying Open the car's phone app, then look under your account or subscriptions I want to stop a charge Call the brand's number or cancel in the app before the renewal date I want to find the renewal date Check the confirmation email or the account page in the app I want to keep emergency help Keep the safety or SOS plan; it is the one most worth the money I want radio without a bill Let SiriusXM lapse and use your phone or regular radio My free trial is ending Decide now, before it turns into a monthly charge I bought a used car Move the services into your own name or start fresh I'm not sure what any of it does Give me a call and we'll go through it together Get help Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP**22. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

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.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

From Trial to Bill

How a free trial quietly becomes a monthly charge.

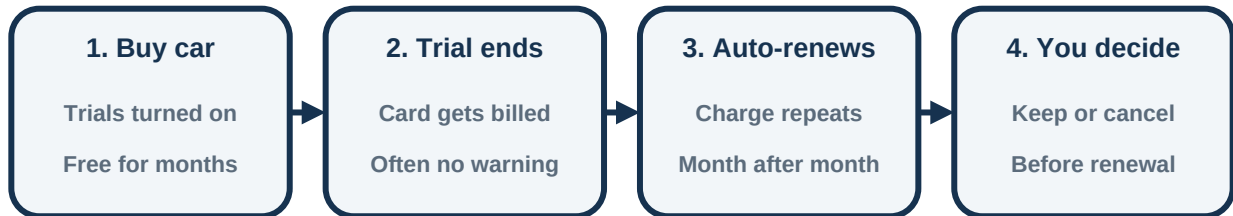


Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Four Kinds of Service

Most charges fall into one of these buckets.

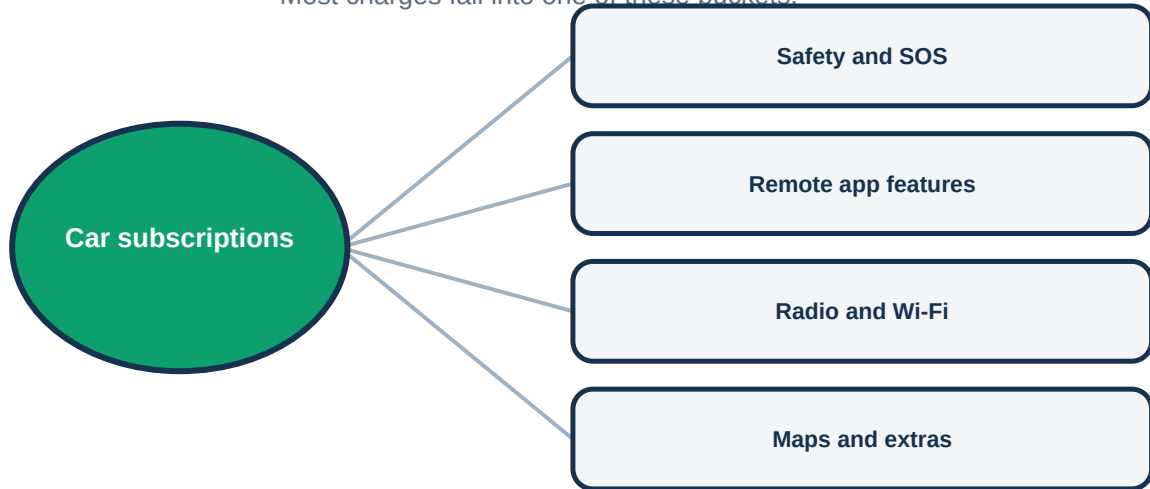


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

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

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