

A Home Phone, No Internet

THE 60-SECOND VERSION

- 1 No internet required — it runs entirely on the cell network.
- 2 Your existing home phones plug right in and work unchanged.
- 3 Verizon, T-Mobile, and independents like Community Phone and US Mobile offer them.
- 4 Most have a built-in battery, so they ride through short power outages.
- 5 The one requirement is a decent cell signal where the box will sit.

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Cellular Home Phones — Verizon & T-Mobile Home Phone Bases Explained

How a cellular home phone base gives you a landline feel over the cell network.

————— An Extended Guide · No. 1720 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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What's Inside

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

In a hurry? Here's the whole thing on one page. A cellular home phone base is a small box with a cell radio and SIM card inside — essentially a cell phone built to sit on a shelf. Your normal cordless or corded phones plug into it, and it carries your calls over the cell network. There's no internet account needed and no technician visit. For folks with poor or no internet, especially out in the county, it's the closest thing to the old landline feel.

- No internet required — it runs entirely on the cell network.
- Your existing home phones plug right in and work unchanged.
- Verizon, T-Mobile, and independents like Community Phone and US Mobile offer them.
- Most have a built-in battery, so they ride through short power outages.
- The one requirement is a decent cell signal where the box will sit.

WATCH OUT

Before you commit, test the cell signal in the exact spot where the box will live — not by the window where you get bars. Weak signal there means dropped calls, so this check is the whole ballgame.

1. The No-Internet Home Phone

A landline feel without a landline.

A lot of folks out here in the county either don't have home internet or have the slow, unreliable kind — and they still want a dependable home phone. For them, I often point to a cellular home phone base, because it's the closest thing to the old landline feel without needing any internet at all.

Picture a small box, about the size of a paperback, that sits on a shelf or a counter. Inside it is essentially a cell phone's guts — a cell radio and a SIM card. Your normal cordless or corded phones plug right into it, and it connects your calls over the cellular network, the same network a cell phone uses. There's no internet to set up and no technician visit.

The result feels remarkably like the landline you're used to. You pick up your same phone, you hear a dial tone, you dial the same way, and your number stays the same. The call just travels through the air to the nearest cell tower instead of down a copper wire or over the internet.

TIP

If the copper shutdown has you worried and your internet isn't great, a cellular base is often the simplest, most landline-like answer. It's a frequent recommendation of mine for rural homes.

2. How It Actually Works

Following a call through the air.

Let me trace a call so the whole thing makes sense. When you pick up your home phone and dial, the signal goes into the base box. Inside, the cell radio does exactly what a cell phone does — it reaches out to the nearest cell tower. From there, your call travels across the phone network to whoever you're calling. It's a cell phone call; your home handset is just the part you hold.

Because it works this way, the box needs two things: electricity to run, and a usable cell signal to reach a tower. It does not need an internet connection, a modem, or any wiring to the old phone jacks. That independence from internet is exactly why it suits homes where internet is poor or absent.

GOOD TO KNOW

The SIM card inside is what ties the box to a cell network, just like the SIM in a cell phone. Most come with it already installed, so you usually don't have to fuss with it at all.

3. Your Phones Plug Right In

Keep the handsets you already have.

One of the nicest things about a cellular base is that you keep the phones you already own. The box has a telephone jack, and your existing cordless set or corded phone plugs right into it, just as it plugged into the wall before. You don't learn a new handset or buy a new phone.

That means all the senior-friendly features of your current phone come right along — the big buttons, the loud ringer, the talking caller ID, whatever your handset already does. The base doesn't change any of that. It just gives your familiar phone a new way to reach the world.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most modern cordless phones work fine with a cellular base, because they plug into the base's jack, not the old wall copper. Your current phone almost certainly carries right over.

4. Who Offers Cellular Bases

The names you'll run into.

Several companies offer cellular home phone bases, and I don't push any one of them. But it helps to know the players so you can compare. Here are the common ones, described in general terms.

- Verizon — offers a home phone base that runs on its wide cellular network; a familiar big-carrier option.
- T-Mobile — its Home Phone product works the same way on the T-Mobile network.
- Community Phone — an independent company built around this exact idea, aimed at folks who want a simple landline replacement.
- US Mobile Home Phone — another independent offering a cellular home base.
- Ooma's LTE option — Ooma's Telo LTE pairs internet phone with a cellular backup, blurring the line between the two kinds.

The big carriers like Verizon and T-Mobile tie the box to their own network, while the independents may let you pick whichever network has the best signal at your address. That flexibility can matter a lot depending on which carrier covers your road best.

TIP

Product names and plans change, so confirm the current offering with each company. The question that matters most stays the same: which network has the strongest signal at my house?

5. The Signal Requirement

The one thing that makes or breaks it.

Here's the heart of the whole decision, so I'm giving it its own chapter: a cellular base is only as good as the cell signal where it sits. Because it reaches a tower through the air, a strong signal means clear, reliable calls, and a weak signal means dropped calls and frustration. Everything hinges on this.

The catch that trips people up is that signal varies within a single house. You might get full bars at the kitchen window but almost nothing in the back bedroom or the basement. So the test isn't "do I get a signal somewhere in the house" — it's "do I get a good signal in the exact spot where the box will live."

WATCH OUT

Test the signal where the box will actually sit, not where you happen to get bars. A back room or basement can be far weaker than the front of the house. This single check prevents the most common disappointment with cellular bases.

6. How to Test Your Signal

A simple check before you commit.

Testing your signal is easy and worth doing before you buy anything. The simplest method uses a cell phone on the same network you're considering, standing right where the box would go.

- 1 Decide where the base would sit — a shelf, a counter, a desk.
- 2 Stand in that exact spot with a cell phone on the network you're considering.
- 3 Check the bars, and better yet, make a few test calls from there.
- 4 Listen for clear sound and no dropouts during those calls.
- 5 Try it at different times of day, since signal can vary.

If a cell phone makes clear calls from that spot, a cellular base will too. If the calls are choppy or drop, either pick a better spot, try a different carrier's network, or consider a signal booster — more on those shortly. Don't skip this; it's the difference between a phone you love and one you fight with.

TIP

Many providers offer a trial period. If you're unsure about signal, buying from one that lets you test at home and return it takes all the risk out of the decision.

7. If Your Signal Is Marginal

Boosters and other fixes.

Say your signal is borderline — okay but not great. You've still got options before you give up on a cellular base. The first is simply trying a different carrier, since Verizon, T-Mobile, and AT&T each cover different roads differently, and an independent provider may let you choose the strongest one for your address.

The second is a cell signal booster — a device that pulls in a weak outside signal and strengthens it inside the house. For a home that's just on the edge of good coverage, a booster can make a cellular base work beautifully. It's an extra piece of equipment, but for the right home it's the thing that makes the whole plan click.

GOOD TO KNOW

A signal booster won't create signal from nothing — it strengthens what's already there. If you have truly no signal outside, a booster can't help, and an internet phone or satellite option might fit better. Confirm your outside signal first.

8. The Built-In Battery Backup

A real advantage over internet phones.

Here's a genuine strength of cellular bases: most of them have a battery built right in. When the power goes out at your house, the box keeps running on its own battery for a while, and since the cell towers have their own backup power, your phone can keep working through an outage that would silence an internet phone.

That built-in battery is a big part of why I like these for folks who worry about storms and outages. You don't have to buy a separate battery backup or wire anything up — the outage protection comes in the box. The battery is sized for hours rather than days, which is plenty for the short outages we get and enough to call for help in a longer one.

GOOD TO KNOW

Even with the built-in battery, keep a charged cell phone as your final backup for 911. And note that cordless handsets need their own power — a simple corded phone will keep working off the base's battery when a cordless base won't.

9. 911 on a Cellular Base

How emergency calls work.

Safety first: yes, 911 works on a cellular home phone base. Because the call goes over the cell network, a 911 call reaches dispatch through the nearest tower, much like a 911 call from a cell phone. Many providers also keep a registered address on file for the base so dispatch knows where you are.

When you set up a base, confirm how it handles 911 and make sure any registered address is correct. Because the box is stationary — it sits in one place in your home — the provider can tie it to your street address, which helps dispatch find you. Ask the provider to walk you through exactly how 911 works on their service, since it's the most important question of all.

WATCH OUT

Always keep a charged cell phone as your final way to reach 911, especially if your home signal is marginal. And confirm the registered address with your provider so help comes to the right place.

10. Keeping Your Same Number

Yes — you can bring it along.

People worry about losing the number they've had for decades, and the good news is you can bring it to a cellular base. Moving a number from one company to another is called “porting,” and the new provider handles it. You give them a recent bill so the details match, and they move the number over.

There's one rule that matters most: don't cancel your old service first. The number has to stay active for the move to work. With cellular bases in particular, the transfer can take several business days — often somewhere in the range of a few days to a couple of weeks — and your new base may not make or take calls on your old number until the move finishes. So keep the old line going until the port is done.

WATCH OUT

Never cancel your old line before the number finishes moving to the base. Cancel too early and the number can be lost for good. Patience here protects a number you've had for decades.

11. Setting One Up

About as easy as it gets.

Setting up a cellular base is about the simplest of all the home-phone options, which is a big part of its appeal. There's no internet to configure and usually no technician. Here's the whole process.

- 1 Place the base where you tested good signal, near a power outlet.
- 2 Plug it into power and let it find the cell network (watch for a steady light).
- 3 Activate it with the provider, and start your number port if you're keeping your number.
- 4 Plug your telephone into the base's phone jack.
- 5 Wait for the dial tone, then make a test call out and have someone call back.

That's it. The box typically comes with its SIM already inside and is designed to start working within minutes of being plugged in and activated. The only wait is the number port if you're keeping your old number, and your old line keeps working during that time.

TIP

The provider may suggest keeping the base away from other electronics that can interfere with it. A clear spot with good signal and a nearby outlet is all it really wants.

12. Voice Only — No Internet or Data

What a cellular base does and doesn't do.

It's worth being clear about what a cellular home base is for: it's a telephone, not an internet connection. It carries voice calls over the cell network, and that's its job. It does not give your house internet, it won't run your computer or your smart TV, and it isn't a replacement for a home internet service.

That's not a shortcoming — it's just what it is. If all you want is a reliable home phone and you either have internet elsewhere or don't need it, a voice-only cellular base is exactly right. If you also need home internet, that's a separate service and a separate decision. Don't expect the phone base to cover both.

GOOD TO KNOW

Some cellular products do offer home internet over the cell network — that's a different device from a phone base. If you need both phone and internet, ask the provider what covers each; don't assume one box does it all.

13. Who a Cellular Base Fits Best

The homes where it shines.

Let me paint a picture of who gets the most out of a cellular base, because it really is the ideal answer for certain homes — and not the right pick for others.

- Homes with poor or no internet, especially out in the rural parts of the county.
- Folks who want the simplest possible setup — plug it in and it works.
- People who want a landline-like feel with a battery that rides through outages.
- Anyone who'd rather not deal with a modem, router, or internet company for their phone.

The one home it doesn't fit is the one with a weak cell signal and no way to boost it. There, an internet phone or another option makes more sense. But for a rural home with decent signal and shaky internet, a cellular base is often the single best match — simple, dependable, and landline-like.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you've got good internet, an internet phone may cost less over time. The cellular base earns its keep when internet is the weak link — which, around the county, it often is.

14. Cellular Base vs. Internet Phone

How to choose between the two.

The two modern home-phone paths — a cellular base and an internet phone — solve the same problem differently, and the choice usually comes down to one question: what's stronger at your house, your internet or your cell signal?

- Strong internet, weak cell signal — lean toward an internet phone.
- Weak or no internet, decent cell signal — lean toward a cellular base.
- Both strong — either works; compare cost and simplicity.
- Both weak — that's worth sorting out before choosing; call me and we'll test both.

There's no single right answer, and plenty of homes could go either way. The honest tiebreaker is often simplicity and outage behavior: the cellular base is simpler to set up and

has its battery built in, while the internet phone can be cheaper over time if your internet is solid.

TIP

If you can't tell which signal is stronger at your house, that's exactly the kind of thing I test on a visit — both your internet and your cell signal — so you choose with facts, not a guess.

15. Cellular Base vs. Keeping Copper

If your copper still works for now.

If your old copper line still works and hasn't been retired, you might wonder why switch to a cellular base at all. It's a fair question. Copper's great strength is that it powers itself and works in any outage. Its weakness is that it's on borrowed time, often costs more, and gets slower to repair as the companies stop investing in it.

A cellular base trades copper's self-powering for a built-in battery that covers shorter outages, and it frees you from a dying network. Many people move to a cellular base before their copper is even retired, simply because it's cheaper and they'd rather switch on their own schedule than scramble when a retirement notice arrives. Either path is reasonable; it's about your priorities.

GOOD TO KNOW

You don't have to switch the day you read this. If your copper works and suits you, keep it — but knowing the cellular base is ready when you want it means a retirement notice will never catch you off guard.

16. Don't Forget Your Medical Alert and Alarm

These can quietly stop working after a switch.

Here's the check that catches people, and it matters just as much with a cellular base as with any switch. A lot of older medical alert pendants and home security or fire alarm panels were built to dial out over a copper landline. Plugged into a cellular base, those devices can quietly fail — the button gets pushed and the signal never reaches the monitoring center.

So before you switch, call your medical alert company and your alarm company and tell them what you're doing. They'll tell you whether your equipment is compatible or whether

you need a cellular version that doesn't rely on a phone line at all — and many medical alerts and alarms now come in cellular models that are a natural match for this kind of setup. After the switch, test the system so you know it truly reaches help.

WATCH OUT

Never assume a medical alert or alarm “just works” once it's on a cellular base. Call those companies and test it. This is exactly the kind of check I do on a visit, because it's too important to guess.

17. Understanding the Cost

Usually a flat monthly amount.

A cellular home phone base is usually a flat monthly charge, sometimes with a one-time cost for the box itself. That flat predictability is part of the appeal — no surprise long-distance charges, no confusing per-minute rates, just a steady monthly amount for your home phone.

I won't print figures here because they drift, but the honest way to compare is to add up the all-in monthly cost against what you pay now and against the other options. The independents sometimes price differently from the big carriers, so it's worth getting a current quote from a couple before you decide.

GOOD TO KNOW

Ask each provider for the true all-in monthly cost, taxes and fees included, plus any one-time box cost. Prices change, so confirm the current figures — or let me pull them for your situation on a visit.

18. Snowbirds and Travel

Can the base come with you?

If you spend part of the year somewhere warmer, a cellular base can be handy, because it isn't tied to a wire at the house. In many cases you can take it with you, plug it in where you're staying, and as long as there's good signal there, your home number rings right along.

There's one important safety note if you do travel with it: your 911 registered address needs to match where you actually are, because that's the address emergency services

receive. If you move the base to Florida for the winter, update the registered address so a 911 call sends help to the right place, and change it back when you come home.

WATCH OUT

Never leave a traveling base registered to the wrong address. In an emergency, help could be sent hundreds of miles away. Update it every time you relocate the box, and confirm the provider allows it to travel.

19. Common Mistakes I See

The slip-ups that cause headaches.

After helping folks set up cellular bases, the same few mistakes come up. None are your fault, but knowing them ahead saves grief.

- Not testing the signal where the box will actually sit — the number-one mistake.
- Canceling the old line before the number ports — it can be lost for good.
- Assuming the medical alert or alarm still works — it may not. Test it.
- Expecting the base to provide home internet — it's voice only.
- Relying only on the base in an emergency without a charged cell phone backup.

Every one of these is easy to avoid once you know to watch for it. Test your signal, move your number the right way, check your alarm, and keep a cell phone handy — do those four and you'll have a smooth, dependable home phone.

WATCH OUT

If a provider won't let you test the signal at home first or has no return window, be cautious. The signal check is everything with a cellular base, and a good provider makes it easy.

20. Big Carrier or Independent?

Two different ways to buy a cellular base.

When you shop for a cellular base, you'll notice two kinds of sellers: the big carriers like Verizon and T-Mobile, and the independent companies like Community Phone and US Mobile Home Phone. They're all selling the same basic idea, but there are real differences worth weighing.

- Big carriers tie the base to their own network — great if that carrier has strong signal at your house, and handy if you already use them for cell.

- Independents often focus on this one product and aim it squarely at folks replacing a landline, sometimes with friendlier, simpler service.
- Some independents can pick whichever network is strongest at your address, which is a real advantage if your best signal isn't the carrier you expected.
- Either way, confirm the signal, the 911 handling, and the all-in cost before you commit. Neither kind is automatically better. If one big carrier blankets your road with signal, going straight to them can be simplest. If coverage at your house is patchy, an independent that can choose the strongest network may serve you better. It comes back to signal, every time.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you already have a cell phone that works great at home, the carrier behind it is a strong starting point for a cellular base — you already know its signal reaches your house.

21. What's Inside the Box

A friendly look under the hood.

You never have to open a cellular base or understand its insides, but a plain picture of what's in there takes the mystery out of it and helps you trust it. Think of it as a simplified cell phone that happens to live on your shelf.

- A cell radio — the part that reaches the nearest tower through the air.
- A SIM card — the chip that identifies the box to the cell network.
- A phone jack — where your regular telephone plugs in.
- A rechargeable battery — so it keeps running when the power's out.
- A power plug — for everyday power from a wall outlet.

That's the whole machine. There's no screen to learn, no apps, no buttons to master. It sits quietly and does one job — carry your home phone calls over the cell network. The simplicity is a feature, not a shortcoming, and it's a big reason these suit folks who want a phone, not a gadget.

GOOD TO KNOW

Because the box is sealed and simple, there's very little to go wrong with it. If it ever acts up, the first fix is the same as any electronics: unplug it for a few seconds and plug it back in.

22. Troubleshooting a Cellular Base

The common hiccups, and easy fixes.

Cellular bases are reliable, but like anything they can have an off day. Here are the common complaints and the simple things to check before you call anyone.

- 1 No dial tone — check the base's lights and that your phone is in the jack marked “phone,” then restart the base by unplugging it for ten seconds.
- 2 Dropped or choppy calls — this is almost always signal; try moving the base toward a window or the strongest-signal spot you found.
- 3 The base shows a weak-signal light — relocate it, or look into a signal booster.
- 4 Dead in an outage after a while — the battery may be worn and due to be replaced, or the outage ran longer than the battery lasts.

Most trouble with a cellular base traces back to signal or a tired battery, both of which are straightforward to sort out. If a restart and a better spot don't fix it, the provider's support can help, and so can I.

TIP

If calls were fine and suddenly got choppy, check whether the base got moved during cleaning or rearranging. Nudging it back to its good-signal spot is the fix more often than you'd think.

23. Everyday Features

Voicemail, caller ID, and the rest.

People worry the familiar features will disappear, but they come right along with a cellular base. Caller ID, call waiting, and voicemail are standard on nearly every one. The experience day to day feels just like the landline you're used to.

Some services add helpful touches — forwarding a call to your cell phone, emailing you a voicemail, or screening junk calls. If junk calls are a plague for you, ask what call-blocking the provider includes, since it varies. And the simplest free defense works here too: let unknown callers go to voicemail, because real people leave a message and most junk callers don't.

GOOD TO KNOW

Because a cellular base is tied to the cell network, some offer the handy trick of forwarding your home calls to your cell phone when you're out — a nice touch the old landline never had.

24. A Simple Switching Plan

How a move to a cellular base goes.

If you decide a cellular base is for you, here's the order I follow so nothing goes dark and nobody loses a number. It's straightforward.

- 1 Test the cell signal where the box will sit, on the network you'll use.
- 2 Pick a provider and order the base; tell them to PORT your number if keeping it.
- 3 Leave your old line active — do not cancel it yet.
- 4 Set up the base, register your 911 address, and plug in your phone.
- 5 Call your medical alert and alarm companies; confirm compatibility and test.
- 6 Only after the number has moved and everything's tested, let the old line close.

GOOD TO KNOW

The number move happens near the end and can take several business days. Your old phone keeps working the whole time, so there's no stretch where you're without a line.

25. Telling Your Family What You Chose

So the people who help you are in the loop.

A lot of the calls I get about this come from adult kids helping a parent from out of town. If that's your situation, on either end, it's worth writing down a few things so everyone knows how the phone works now.

- That the phone now runs on a cellular base, on which carrier's network.
- Where the base sits, and not to move it (signal and 911 depend on its spot).
- That the base has a battery, and roughly how long it lasts in an outage.
- That the medical alert and alarm were checked and tested.
- A backup cell number in case the home phone is ever down.

When a storm knocks the power out, the family member two states away will be glad they know the base has a battery and how else to reach their parent. A little card by the phone does the job.

TIP

Note the spot where the base sits on that card too. If it ever gets moved during cleaning, moving it back to the good-signal spot is the fix for a sudden case of dropped calls.

26. If You Live Alone

Extra safety in the setup.

If you live by yourself, the phone isn't just a convenience — it's a lifeline, and that deserves extra care. A cellular base is actually a strong choice here, because its built-in battery means the phone keeps working through the power cuts when you'd most need to reach help.

- Put the base where the signal is strongest, and test 911 handling with the provider.
- Keep a charged cell phone, even a simple one, as your final way to reach 911.
- Use a cellular medical alert that doesn't depend on the phone line, and test it monthly.
- Keep a simple corded phone on the base, since it works off the battery when a cordless won't.
- Write your address by the phone — in a panic it's easy to blank.

None of this is meant to worry you. It's the opposite — a few small choices now mean you never have to wonder whether the phone will be there when you need it most. This is the kind of setup I'm always glad to put together for someone living on their own.

GOOD TO KNOW

The built-in battery is a real comfort for someone living alone. Just confirm how many hours it lasts and keep a charged cell phone too, so you're covered through a longer outage.

27. Questions I Get All the Time

Quick, plain answers.

Do I need internet? No — a cellular base runs entirely on the cell network, with no internet account at all.

Will my number change? No — you keep it by porting, as long as you don't cancel the old line first. The move can take several days.

What happens in a power outage? The base runs on its built-in battery for a while, so the phone keeps working. Always keep a charged cell phone for 911 too.

What if my signal is weak? Test before you buy. A different carrier or a signal booster can help, but true dead zones mean another option may fit better.

GOOD TO KNOW

If your question isn't here, it's probably one I've answered many times. There's no charge to ask a question over the phone — just call.

28. A Few Plain Words to Know

The jargon, translated.

The cellular world has its own terms. Here's the short translation so nothing trips you up.

- Cellular base — the box that gives you a home phone over the cell network.
- SIM card — the little chip that ties the box to a cell network.
- Signal / bars — how strong the cell connection is where the box sits.
- Signal booster — a device that strengthens a weak indoor cell signal.
- Porting — moving your phone number to a new provider.
- Registered location — the address your provider sends to 911.

TIP

Keep this list with your guide. When a provider or a salesperson uses one of these words, you'll know exactly what they mean.

29. When to Just Call Me

You don't have to do any of this alone.

I wrote this so you'd understand the cellular base and feel calm about it. But understanding a thing and wanting to set it up yourself are two different matters, and there's no shame in handing it off. Testing your signal, choosing a provider, setting up the base, moving your number, confirming 911, and testing your alarm is exactly the kind of visit I do every week.

I come to you, here in Portage County and the nearby towns. The first in-home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars, and if a problem can be handled without a trip, I offer remote help too. If you're not completely happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's the whole deal — no fine print.

TIP

When you call, my assistant Sophie may answer and take down the details so I can call you back — she's there so you always reach a friendly voice, not a dead end.

30. What I'd Tell My Own Neighbor

The short, honest version.

After 30+ years of professional experience helping folks with exactly this kind of change, here's the plain advice I'd give over the fence. If your internet is poor or you don't have it, a cellular home phone base is often the closest thing to the old landline — a little box on the cell network, your same phones plugged in, your same number, and a battery built in for outages.

The one thing that makes or breaks it is the cell signal where the box sits, so test that first. Then keep your number the right way, check your medical alert and alarm, and keep a charged cell phone for emergencies. Do that and you'll have a home phone that feels just like the one you've always had — simple, dependable, and ready when you need it.

GOOD TO KNOW

If any of this feels like a lot, that's normal. You can hand the whole thing to me — the signal test, the setup, the number move, and the testing — and I'll handle it in one visit.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

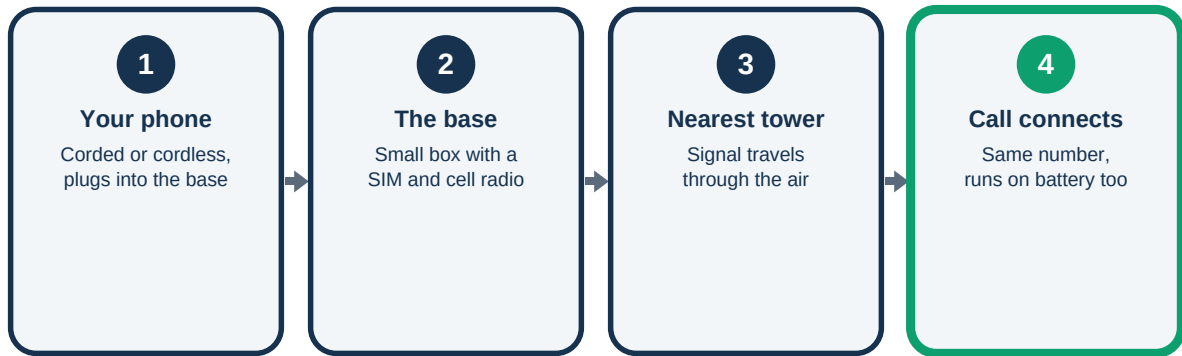
Keep this by the phone. I want to... Do this. Understand it — a cellular home phone base is a small box that runs on the cell network, needs no internet, and lets your regular phones plug right in. Make sure it'll work — test the cell signal in the exact spot where the box will sit, on the network you'll use; a back room can be far weaker than a window. Survive outages — rely on the built-in battery, keep a simple corded phone on the base, and always keep a charged cell phone for 911. Keep my number — have the NEW provider port it; never cancel the old line first, and expect several days for the move. Protect 911 — confirm the registered address with your provider. Protect my medical alert / alarm — call those companies before switching and test after; a cellular model may fit best. Remember — it's voice only, not home internet. Get help — call Bill: (330) 200-8042.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

How a Cellular Home Phone Works

No internet — it uses the cell network



Like a cell phone, but your home handsets do the talking.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Three Ways to Have a Home Phone

No single “best” — the right fit for your home

	Cellular base	Internet phone	Old copper
Needs internet?	No	Yes	No
Needs good signal?	Yes — cell	No	No
Battery backup	Built in	Add-on	Self-powered
Still available?	Yes	Yes	Being retired

Confirm current details with each provider before you choose.

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.