BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

Dash Cams for the Tow Vehicle and RV

mind An Extended Guide · No. 2066

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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you remember only this page, you will still make a smart choice. A dash cam is a little camera that mounts on your windshield and records the road as you drive. If there is a fender-bender or a close call, you have video of what really happened. Many also have a parking mode that records while you are away, and a GPS stamp that notes your speed and location on the footage. It records the road so you have proof after an incident Front-only is simplest; front-and-rear covers behind you too Parking mode watches the rig while parked, but needs extra power A phone app over Wi-Fi lets you pull clips off the camera The memory card wears out over time and must be replaced The single biggest reason people love a dash cam is peace of mind. If you are ever in a dispute about who was at fault, the video speaks for you, calmly and clearly. WHAT IT IS 2. What a Dash Cam Actually Is A dash cam is a small video camera made to live in your vehicle and record continuously while you drive. It starts recording when you turn the key and saves the video to a memory card inside it. Most are about the size of a deck of cards and tuck up near the rearview mirror where they are out of your way. It is not a security system or a complicated gadget. It is simply a camera that is always rolling, keeping a running record of the road so the moments you never expect are captured just in case. TIP Think of it as a quiet witness riding along with you. You forget it is there until the day you are very glad it was.

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WHY IT MATTERS

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3. Why Tow Drivers Want One When you are towing a trailer or driving a big motorhome, other drivers sometimes cut in, brake hard, or blame you for things that were not your fault. A dash cam gives you clear video of what actually happened. For a large, slow-to-stop rig, having proof can save you a world of trouble and expense after an incident. Proof of what happened in a collision or close call Protection when another driver blames you unfairly A record of road-rage or reckless drivers around you Peace of mind on long, tiring travel days None of this means the road is a scary place. It means that if the rare bad moment comes, you are not left with just your word against someone else's. BE HONEST 4. Do You Need One? An honest look before you spend anything. Here is the straight talk. A dash cam is not essential the way brakes are. Plenty of people drive for years without one. But it is inexpensive insurance, and for a big rig that is hard to maneuver and expensive to repair, many find it well worth the modest cost. Whether you need one comes down to how much that peace of mind is worth to you. Not essential, but inexpensive peace of mind Especially valuable for a large, hard-to-stop rig Useful if you worry about false blame after an incident Skip it if the cost and fuss outweigh the comfort for you WATCH OUT Do not let anyone scare you into the fanciest multi-camera system if a simple front camera covers your real worry. Buy the protection you will actually use, not the most expensive box.

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HOW IT WORKS

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5. How It Records the Road A dash cam records video onto a memory card inside it, the same kind of small card a camera uses. It records in a loop, meaning when the card fills up, it quietly records over the oldest footage. So it is always keeping the most recent driving, and you never have to stop and clear it out by hand. When something happens — a bump, a hard brake — the camera can lock that clip so the loop does not erase it. That locked clip is the one you keep as evidence. Everything else rolls over on its own. Because it records in a loop, you never run out of room. The camera manages the card for you, always holding on to the latest hours of driving. FRONT ONLY 6. A Front-Only Camera The simplest dash cam is a single camera facing forward out the windshield. It records the road ahead, which is where most incidents you care about happen. For many people, a front-only camera is all they need — it is cheaper, simpler to install, and covers the most common situations. A single camera facing out the windshield Covers the road ahead, where most incidents happen Cheapest and simplest to install A fine choice for most drivers TIP If you are not sure how much you want, start with a good front-only camera. You can always step up to a two-camera system later if you find you want the view behind you.

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FRONT AND REAR

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7. Adding a Rear Camera A two-camera system adds a second camera facing out the back, so you record what happens behind you as well as ahead. This catches the driver who rear-ends you or tailgates aggressively. In a car or the tow vehicle alone, the rear camera mounts in the back window and is straightforward. A second camera records the view behind you Catches a rear-end collision or an aggressive tailgater Mounts in the rear window of a car or truck More wiring than a front-only setup The rear camera is most useful for the many incidents where someone hits you from behind. If that is a worry for you, the two-camera system earns its extra cost. REAR FOR TOWING 8. The Trouble With a Rear Cam Behind a Trailer Here is a wrinkle for RVers. If you put a rear camera in the tow vehicle's back window, a trailer blocks its view entirely. To see behind a trailer you need a separate camera mounted on the back of the trailer, which is really a backup-camera job rather than a dash-cam one. Keep the two purposes clear in your mind. A tow vehicle's rear cam only sees the trailer, not behind it Seeing behind a trailer needs a camera on the trailer itself That is a backup-camera task, covered in its own guide For dash-cam purposes, the front camera is the main one TIP My backup and hitch camera guide covers seeing behind the trailer for towing and backing. A dash cam and a backup camera are two different tools for two different jobs.

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INSIDE CAM

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9. Cameras That Watch the Cabin Some dash cams add a third lens pointed inside the cabin. These are popular with rideshare drivers but less useful for most RVers. Unless you have a particular reason to record inside the vehicle, you can skip this feature and save the money. For towing peace of mind, the road-facing cameras are what matter. An inside lens records the cabin, not the road Popular for rideshare, rarely needed by RVers Adds cost for a feature most campers skip Focus your money on the road-facing cameras Do not feel you are missing out by skipping the cabin camera. For protecting yourself on the road, the view out the windshield is the one that counts. RESOLUTION 10. Picture Quality and Reading Plates A dash cam is only useful if the video is clear enough to show what happened, including reading a license plate. Higher resolution means a sharper picture. You do not need the absolute top of the line, but you do want a camera clear enough that plates and faces are readable, especially at a distance or at speed. Clear enough to read a license plate is the goal Higher resolution gives a sharper picture You need good, not necessarily the very best Check reviews for real-world clarity, not just the spec TIP A blurry video that cannot show the other driver's plate is almost useless as evidence. Spend enough to get a genuinely sharp picture; that is the whole point of the camera.

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GPS

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11. The GPS Stamp Many dash cams include GPS, which stamps your speed and location onto the footage. This can be valuable evidence — it shows you were driving at a sensible speed and exactly where the incident happened. It is a quiet feature that works in the background and adds credibility to your video if you ever need it. GPS stamps your speed and location on the video Shows you were driving sensibly and where it happened Works automatically in the background Adds weight to the footage as evidence The speed stamp cuts both ways, so it quietly encourages good driving. If you drive sensibly, as most RVers do, it only ever works in your favor. PARKING MODE 12. What Parking Mode Does Parking mode lets the camera keep watch while the vehicle is parked and switched off. If someone bumps your rig in a lot or tampers with it, the camera wakes up and records. It is a genuinely useful feature for a parked RV or tow vehicle, but it needs a steady source of power to work while the engine is off. Records while the vehicle is parked and off Catches a hit-and-run or tampering in a lot Wakes up when it senses a bump or motion Needs a power source while the engine is off WATCH OUT Parking mode does not work on its own — the camera needs power with the engine off. That means a hardwire kit or a separate battery, covered on the next pages.

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HARDWIRE

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13. Hardwiring for Parking Mode To run parking mode, the usual method is a hardwire kit that connects the camera to the vehicle's fuse box so it keeps a trickle of power with the engine off. A good kit includes protection that stops the camera from draining your battery flat. This is where a professional install is often worth it, to do the wiring safely. A hardwire kit powers the camera from the fuse box It keeps parking mode running with the engine off A good kit protects against draining the battery flat Professional installation keeps the wiring safe and tidy WATCH OUT The protection that cuts power before your battery dies is the part that matters most. Without it, parking mode could leave you with a dead battery, so do not skip a quality kit. BATTERY PACKS 14. A Battery Pack Instead of Hardwiring If you would rather not wire into the vehicle, a separate dash-cam battery pack is another way to run parking mode. It charges while you drive and then powers the camera while parked, without touching your vehicle's own battery. It is a tidy, no-wiring option, though it is another thing to buy and find room for. A dedicated battery pack powers parking mode It charges while you drive, runs the camera while parked No wiring into the vehicle's own battery Another piece of gear to buy and mount A battery pack is the safest choice if you worry about your vehicle's battery, because it never touches it. The trade-off is the extra cost and a box to find space for.

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MEMORY CARD

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15. The microSD Card A dash cam saves its video to a small memory card, called a microSD card, that slots into the camera. You usually buy this separately and choose one with enough room to hold a good stretch of driving. Buy a card made for dash cams or security use, because they are built to handle constant recording. Video saves to a small microSD card in the camera Buy it separately and pick enough capacity Choose a card rated for dash-cam or security use An ordinary card may not survive constant recording TIP Spend a little more on a card specifically rated for dash cams. The cheap card from the checkout aisle wears out fast under constant recording and may fail you when it counts. CARD WEARS OUT 16. Why the Card Wears Out A dash cam records over its card around the clock, and that constant writing wears the card out over time. A worn card can start failing silently, meaning you think you are recording but you are not. The fix is simple: replace the card periodically, and check now and then that it is still recording properly. Constant recording wears the card out over time A worn card can fail without an obvious warning Replace the card periodically as a habit Check now and then that it is actually recording WATCH OUT The worst surprise is discovering, after an incident, that your worn-out card recorded nothing. Mark a reminder to replace it on a schedule and to check the footage once in a while.

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LOOP RECORDING

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17. How Loop Recording Works Loop recording is how a dash cam keeps going forever without filling up. It records in short segments, and when the card is full it erases the oldest segment to make room for the newest. You always have the most recent hours of driving, and you never have to manage the card by hand on a normal day. The camera records in short segments When full, it erases the oldest to make room You always keep the most recent driving No need to clear the card by hand normally The only footage you must act on is a clip you want to keep. If an incident happens, save that clip before the loop eventually records over it. EVENT LOCK 18. Locking an Important Clip When the camera senses a sudden jolt, like a collision, it automatically locks the current clip so the loop will not erase it. You can also lock a clip yourself with a button if you see something you want to keep. A locked clip stays safe on the card until you remove it, no matter how many times the loop goes around.

1. The camera auto-locks a clip when it senses a hard jolt
2. Press the lock button to save a clip yourself
3. Locked clips are protected from the loop erasing them
4. Move important clips off the card soon after TIP Learn where the lock button is before you need it. If something happens in front of you worth keeping, one press saves the clip while it is still fresh on the card.

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WIFI APP

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19. The Wi-Fi App on Your Phone Most dash cams connect to a phone app over their own Wi-Fi, so you can watch and download clips without pulling the card out. You open the app, connect to the camera, and view the footage right on your phone. It is the easy way to grab a clip you need and to change the camera's settings. The camera makes its own Wi-Fi for your phone The app lets you watch and download clips No need to remove the card for everyday use Also where you change the camera's settings The camera's Wi-Fi is just a short-range link between it and your phone, not internet. You connect to it the same way you join any Wi-Fi network, right there in the vehicle. PULLING CLIPS 20. Getting Clips Off the Camera When you need a clip — for insurance or your own records — there are two ways to get it. Use the phone app over Wi-Fi to download it straight to your phone, or pull the memory card out and read it on a computer. The app is easier for a quick clip; the card is handy for copying a lot of footage at once.

1. Open the app and connect to the camera's Wi-Fi
2. Find the clip by its time and date
3. Download it to your phone, or
4. Remove the card and read it on a computer TIP Grab the clip you need promptly, before the loop or a card problem loses it. Save it to your phone and, for anything important, to a second place like a computer or the cloud.

MOUNTING

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21. Mounting It on the Windshield The camera mounts on the inside of the windshield, usually right behind the rearview mirror where it is out of your line of sight. It sticks on with an adhesive pad or a suction cup. Position it so it sees the road clearly but does not block your view, and tuck the wire along the headliner out of the way.

1. Mount it behind the mirror, out of your sightline
2. Use the adhesive pad or suction mount provided
3. Aim it so it sees the road, level and centered
4. Tuck the power wire along the headliner neatly WATCH OUT Do not mount the camera where it blocks your view of the road. Behind the mirror is the sweet spot — it sees everything the camera needs while staying out of your eyes. POWER WIRING 22.

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Powering It From the Vehicle The simplest way to power a dash cam is to plug it into a twelve-volt socket, so it comes on with the engine. For a cleaner look, the wire can be tucked along the trim. For parking mode you step up to a hardwire kit. Either way, route the cord so it does not dangle near the pedals or your knees. Plug into a twelve-volt socket for the simplest power Tuck the wire along the trim for a clean look A hardwire kit is needed for parking mode Keep the cord clear of the pedals and your legs My twelve-volt power guide covers sockets, USB ports, and clean wiring at the dash. A tidy, well-routed cord is the difference between a neat install and a dangling mess.

HEAT

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23. Heat and the Parked Camera A camera sitting on the windshield in summer sun gets very hot, and heat is hard on electronics and memory cards. Many dash cams are built to handle it, but extreme heat can still cause a camera to shut off or shorten the card's life. Park in the shade when you can, and know that heat is the main enemy of a windshield camera. A windshield camera gets very hot in summer sun Extreme heat can make a camera shut off to protect itself Heat shortens the memory card's life Park in the shade when you can TIP If you run parking mode in blazing summer, know that heat is working against the camera. A shady spot or a sunshade on the windshield helps the camera and the card last longer. SETTINGS 24. The Settings Worth Changing Out of the box, a dash cam works with its default settings, but a few are worth checking. Make sure the date and time are right, the resolution is set well, and the sensitivity for locking clips is not so touchy that every bump locks a clip. Spend five minutes in the settings when you first install it. Confirm the date and time are correct Set the resolution for a clear picture Tune the jolt sensitivity so it is not too touchy Set loop length and parking mode to your liking If the camera locks a clip every time you hit a pothole, turn the sensitivity down a notch. You want it to catch real incidents, not fill the card with bumps in the road.

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DATE & TIME

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25. Setting the Date and Time This small setting matters more than it seems. The date and time are stamped on your footage, and if they are wrong, the video is far less convincing as evidence. Set them correctly when you install the camera, and check them again after a power loss or a card change, because some cameras reset.

1. Open the settings in the app or on the camera
2. Set the correct date and current time
3. Check it again after a long power loss
4. Confirm the stamp shows on the footage WATCH OUT A video stamped with the wrong date can be waved away as unreliable. Take the extra minute to get the clock right, and recheck it now and then. EVIDENCE 26. Using Footage as Evidence If you are ever in an incident, the footage can settle who was at fault. Save the clip right away, copy it somewhere safe, and provide it to your insurance company or the authorities if asked. Clear video with a correct time and location stamp is powerful, calm proof of what happened, far better than memory or argument.
5. Save and lock the clip right after an incident
6. Copy it to your phone and a second safe place
7. Provide it to your insurer or authorities if asked
8. Keep the original untouched as the record Do not post the clip online before giving it to your insurer or the authorities. Keep the original clean and let the people who need it see it first.

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INSURANCE

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27. Dash Cams and Insurance Dash-cam footage can help an insurance claim go your way by showing you were not at fault. Some insurers look favorably on them, though policies vary. The main value is simple: when there is a dispute, your video can prove your side instead of leaving it as your word against the other driver's. Footage can support your side of a claim Some insurers view dash cams favorably — ask yours The video can settle a he-said dispute Keep your footage organized in case you need it TIP Ask your insurance agent whether a dash cam affects your policy. Even where it does not change the rate, having the footage can make a claim far smoother if you are ever in one. PRIVACY & LAWS 28. Recording and the Rules Recording the road from your own vehicle is generally fine, but rules about where you may mount a camera on the windshield and about recording audio inside the vehicle vary from place to place. If you travel across state lines, it is worth a quick check of the rules where you go, especially for any inside-facing camera that records conversation. Recording the public road is generally allowed Windshield mounting rules vary by state Recording audio inside may have its own rules Check the rules where you travel if unsure WATCH OUT If your camera records audio inside the cabin, be mindful when you have passengers who may not want to be recorded. A quick heads-up to riders keeps everyone comfortable.

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RV SPECIFIC

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29. A Dash Cam in the Motorhome In a motorhome, the dash cam mounts on the big windshield just as it would in a car, giving you a clear forward view of the road from up high. The driver's seat sits forward, so the camera has a commanding view. Parking mode is handy here too, keeping an eye on a parked motorhome in a lot or at a campground. Mounts on the motorhome windshield like in a car The high seating gives a commanding forward view Parking mode watches the parked motorhome Hardwiring is tidy given the motorhome's wiring A motorhome's size makes a forward-facing record especially useful, since other drivers often misjudge how much room such a big rig needs. TOW VEHICLE 30. A Dash Cam in the Tow Vehicle If you tow a trailer with a truck or SUV, the dash cam goes in the tow vehicle, facing forward out the windshield like any car install. This is the simplest and most common setup for trailer folks. The forward view is the one that matters, since a rear view is blocked by the trailer anyway. Mounts in the tow vehicle like a normal car install Faces forward, the view that matters most for towing Simple twelve-volt power or a hardwire for parking mode Rear view is blocked by the trailer, so focus on the front TIP For a trailer setup, a good front camera in the tow vehicle is the sensible core. Leave seeing behind the trailer to a proper backup camera, which is a different tool.

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TWO VEHICLES

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31. Covering Truck and Trailer Some RVers want eyes on both the road ahead and behind the trailer. That is really two systems: a dash cam in the tow vehicle for the road, and a backup or observation camera on the trailer for what is behind. They do different jobs and usually come from different products. Knowing that keeps you from expecting one camera to do both. A dash cam in the truck for the road ahead A separate backup camera on the trailer for behind Two tools for two jobs, not one camera for both Budget and install them separately My backup and hitch camera guide covers the trailer-mounted side in full. Pair that with a front dash cam and you have both the road and the rear covered. NIGHT 32. Night Recording A dash cam needs to record clearly in the dark as well as in daylight, since incidents happen at night too. Better cameras handle low light and glare from headlights more gracefully. Check that the camera you choose has a good reputation for night footage, because a daytime-only camera leaves you exposed for half your driving. The camera must record clearly at night, not just by day Better cameras handle low light and headlight glare Check reviews for real night footage quality A keep the windshield clean for clearer night video TIP A dirty or smudged windshield turns oncoming headlights into a blinding glare on the footage. A clean windshield is the cheapest way to improve your night recording.

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STORAGE AT HOME

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33. Backing Up Footage For any clip that matters — an incident, a close call, a trip memory — copy it off the camera and keep it somewhere safe at home. The card will eventually record over everything, so important footage needs a second home on a computer or in the cloud. Do this soon after the event, not weeks later when the loop may have erased it. Copy important clips to a computer or the cloud The card eventually records over everything Back up soon after an event, not later Keep the original clip untouched for evidence My guides on backing up photos and files cover keeping your important footage safe for good. A clip saved in two places is a clip you will never lose. UPDATES 34. Keeping the Camera Updated Like any gadget, a dash cam gets occasional software updates that fix bugs and improve how it works. You usually install these through the phone app. Checking for an update now and then, and after you first set the camera up, keeps it running smoothly and recording reliably. The camera gets occasional software updates Install them through the phone app Check after first setup and now and then Updates keep it recording reliably TIP After you install a new dash cam, check the app for an update right away. The camera on the shelf may have been there a while, and a fresh update often irons out early wrinkles.

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BRANDS

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35. Picking a Brand Without Overpaying There are many dash-cam brands at many prices, and you do not need the most expensive to get a good one. Look for a well-reviewed camera with clear day-and-night video, the features you actually want, and a card rated for the job. Read honest reviews rather than chasing the biggest number on the box. Many good brands exist at many prices You do not need the priciest to get a good camera Look for clear day and night video and the features you want Read honest reviews, not just the spec sheet There is no single best dash cam for everyone. Match the camera to what you actually need — front-only or front-and-rear, with or without parking mode — and buy from a brand with a solid reputation. WHAT IT COSTS 36. What to Expect to Pay A dash cam is one of the more affordable pieces of RV tech. A decent front-only camera runs modestly, a two-camera system costs more, and extras like a hardwire kit, a good card, or professional installation add to the total. Prices move around, so confirm the current cost before you buy. A front-only camera is quite affordable A two-camera system costs more A hardwire kit, card, and install add to the total Confirm the current prices before buying WATCH OUT Remember to budget for the memory card and, if you want parking mode, the hardwire kit. The camera's sticker price is not always the whole cost of a working setup.

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WINTER

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37. The Camera in an Ohio Winter Cold weather is easier on a dash cam than summer heat, but a camera left in a rig stored for an Ohio winter still deserves thought. If the rig sits unused for months, you may pull the camera indoors with your other electronics. If you keep parking mode running for security, make sure it is not slowly draining a battery in the cold. Cold is gentler than heat, but still consider it Pull the camera indoors if the rig is stored for months If running parking mode, watch the battery in the cold A frozen battery and a draining camera do not mix TIP My winterizing guide covers batteries and electronics for the whole rig. A dash cam is one small piece of putting everything to bed safely for the Ohio winter. CLEANING 38. Keeping the Lens Clean A smudged lens or a dirty windshield in front of the camera ruins the footage, turning a useful record into a blur. Give the lens a gentle wipe with a soft cloth now and then, and keep the windshield clean where the camera looks through it. It is a two-minute habit that keeps your video sharp. Wipe the lens gently with a soft cloth Keep the windshield clean where the camera looks A smudge or dirt ruins the footage Make it a quick, regular habit The glass directly in front of the lens matters most. A clean patch there keeps every clip sharp, day or night, for the cost of a quick wipe.

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COMMON WORRIES

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39. The Questions People Ask Me Most When folks ask me about dash cams, the same questions come up. Here are the honest answers to the ones I hear most, so you can decide with clear eyes. 'Is it hard to install?' A simple plug-in front camera, no — a hardwire, maybe get help 'Do I need front and rear?' Only if the view behind matters to you 'Will it drain my battery?' Not if the parking-mode kit has protection 'Is the video good enough?' A decent camera reads plates day and night The honest truth is that a simple front camera covers most people's real worry. Start there, and add rear or parking mode only if you find you want more. MYTHS 40. Myths About Dash Cams A few wrong ideas keep people from a tool that would give them peace of mind, or lull them into false confidence. Let me clear up the common ones so you know what a dash cam does and does not do. Myth: it records forever on its own. No — the card loops and wears out Myth: it watches the rig anytime for free. Parking mode needs extra power Myth: any cheap card is fine. A worn or cheap card can fail silently Myth: one camera sees behind the trailer. No — that needs a trailer camera WATCH OUT The most costly myth is assuming it is always recording when the card has quietly failed. Check your footage now and then so you know it truly works. TROUBLESHOOTING 41. When It Stops Recording If the camera is not recording, the fix is usually simple. Most problems come from a card that needs formatting or replacing, a loose power connection, or heat shutting the camera down. Work through the basics before you assume the camera is broken.

1. Check that the camera has power and is turned on
2. Format the memory card in the camera, or replace a worn one

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TIP

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1. Reseat the power cable at both ends
2. Let it cool if heat has shut it down
3. Update its software through the app Formatting the card in the camera itself, every so often, keeps it healthy. If formatting does not fix a recording problem, the card has likely worn out and needs replacing. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Dash Cam Checklist Here is the short version to keep handy. If you can check these off, your camera is set up right and ready to be the quiet witness you hope you never need. Chose front-only or front-and-rear to match my worry Mounted it behind the mirror, out of my sightline Using a card rated for dash cams, with a replacement reminder set Date and time set correctly and stamped on the footage Parking mode powered safely if I want it Know how to lock and pull a clip with the app Back up important clips to a second safe place Tape a short version inside a cabinet door. The lines that save the most grief are checking the card and confirming the date and time. WHEN TO CALL 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me A simple plug-in front camera is something many folks can set up themselves in an afternoon. But if you want parking mode hardwired safely so it never drains your battery, if you are not sure which camera and card to buy, or if you would simply rather have someone mount it cleanly and set it up right, that is exactly what I am here for. I will give you the honest answer about how much camera you actually need, and get it working before your next trip.

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TIP

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I can help you pick the right camera and card, mount it cleanly, wire parking mode safely, and show you how to pull a clip when you need one — so you leave with real peace of mind. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It is the short answer to the questions RVers ask most about dash cams. A dash cam records the road so you have proof after an incident Front-only is simplest and covers most worries; front-and-rear adds the view behind Parking mode watches a parked rig but needs a hardwire kit or a battery pack Use a memory card rated for dash cams and replace it periodically before it wears out The card records in a loop, so lock and save any clip you want to keep A phone app over Wi-Fi lets you watch and pull clips without removing the card Set the date and time correctly so the footage holds up as evidence Heat is the main enemy — park in the shade and keep the lens and windshield clean Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP

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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). 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.

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AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Dash Cam Setup Fits You?

Match the camera to what you worry about.

Front Only

Simplest and cheapest
Covers the road ahead
A fine start for most

Front and Rear

Adds the view behind
Catches a rear-end hit
More wiring to run

Parking Mode

Watches the parked rig
Needs hardwire or battery
Guards against lot bumps

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AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Box to Rolling Record

Set it up once and let it watch the road.

1. Mount it behind the mirror, out of your sightline
2. Add a dash-cam-rated card and power it up
3. Set the correct date and time
4. Tune the settings and parking mode if you want it
5. Lock and back up any clip you need to keep

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.

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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.

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