



Flying With Batteries, Laptops and Gadgets

Through Security Easily TSA rules for batteries and devices so nothing gets left behind

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Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com · Atwater, Ohio

Book a visit — billshometech.com/book

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1. The Whole Idea in One Glance

If you remember only this page, you will still pack right.

The single most important rule is about batteries. Anything with a loose lithium battery, especially a power bank or a spare battery, must travel in your carry-on bag, never in a checked bag. That is because a battery problem is far safer to handle in the cabin than in the cargo hold below.

- Power banks and spare batteries: carry-on only, never checked
- Laptops and large tablets: take them out of the bag at the regular security line
- TSA PreCheck travelers usually leave laptops in the bag
- Vapes and e-cigarettes: carry-on only, never checked
- Keep your gadgets organized so nothing is left at the checkpoint

WATCH OUT

Never put a power bank or a loose spare battery in a checked bag. This is the one rule airlines and the TSA care about most, and it is for everyone's safety in the air.

WHY THE RULES EXIST

2. Why Batteries Have Special Rules

It helps to understand the reason, because then the rules make sense instead of feeling arbitrary. The lithium batteries inside phones, laptops, and power banks store a lot of energy in a small space. On very rare occasions, a damaged or faulty battery can overheat. In the cabin, a crew member can act at once; in the sealed cargo hold, no one would notice in time.

That single fact explains nearly every rule in this guide. Loose and spare batteries, and the power banks that are really just big batteries, ride in the cabin where people can keep an eye on them. It is a sensible precaution, not a hassle aimed at you.

GOOD TO KNOW

The rules are not about stopping you from flying with your gadgets. They are about keeping batteries where a person can respond if anything ever goes wrong, which is the cabin, not the hold.

THE GOLDEN RULE

3. The One Rule to Remember

If you forget everything else, remember this. Loose lithium batteries and power banks go in your carry-on, with you in the cabin. Devices that have a battery sealed inside, like a phone or laptop, can technically be checked, but are far better carried on too, so you do not lose them.

- Spare batteries and power banks: always carry-on
- Phones, laptops, tablets, cameras: carry-on is strongly preferred
- Checked bags: fine for clothes, shoes, and things without loose batteries
- When in doubt, carry it on, both for safety and to avoid loss

TIP

A simple way to remember it: if it is a battery or holds a battery you value, keep it with you in the cabin. Your bag in the hold is for the things you could replace at a store.

WHAT IS A WATT-HOUR

4. Watt-Hours, Explained Simply

The rules use a measurement called the watt-hour, written as Wh. Do not let the term scare you. A watt-hour is simply a way to measure how much energy a battery holds, the way gallons measure how much a tank holds. Bigger batteries have more watt-hours.

Here is all you really need to know. Almost every battery an ordinary traveler carries, a phone, a laptop, a normal power bank, is well under the first limit and needs no permission at all. Only unusually large batteries bump into the higher limits.

GOOD TO KNOW

The watt-hour number is usually printed in tiny text on the battery or power bank itself, often near the words 'Rated' or on a small label. You rarely need to check it, because ordinary batteries are comfortably within the rules.

THE THREE LIMITS

5. The Three Watt-Hour Limits, in Plain Terms

There are three simple tiers, and knowing them settles almost every question. The numbers sound technical, but the practical meaning is friendly: most everything you own is in the easy first tier.

- Under 100 watt-hours: allowed in carry-on, no permission needed; this covers nearly all phones, laptops, and power banks
- Between 100 and 160 watt-hours: allowed with the airline's approval, usually a limit of two; this is large camera or pro batteries
- Over 160 watt-hours: not allowed on a passenger plane at all, in carry-on or checked

TIP

A common everyday power bank of around 20,000 milliamp-hours works out to roughly 74 watt-hours, comfortably under the 100 limit. If yours does not print the watt-hours, a typical phone-charging power bank is almost certainly fine.

READING YOUR POWER BANK

6. Making Sense of the Numbers on a Power Bank

Power banks often shout a big number like 20,000 mAh on the front, which stands for milliamp-hours, a different measurement. The airline rule is in watt-hours, so there can be a little confusion. Happily, you rarely need to do any math.

As a rule of thumb, a power bank up to about 27,000 mAh is under the 100 watt-hour limit and needs no permission. Most power banks sold for charging phones are well under that, so an ordinary one is almost always fine to carry on.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you ever want to be sure, look for the Wh number printed on the power bank. If it says under 100 Wh, you are set. If it only shows mAh and that number is under about 27,000, you are almost certainly fine too.

POWER BANKS

7. Power Banks Ride With You

A power bank is one of the most useful travel gadgets there is, letting you top up a phone anywhere. It is also pure battery, so it follows the strictest rule: carry-on only, every time. Never pack a power bank in a checked bag.

Keep your power banks in your personal bag where you can reach them. Airlines also increasingly ask that you do not charge a power bank during the flight, so plan to charge your devices on the ground or straight from a seat outlet instead.

WATCH OUT

Several airlines have added rules limiting you to about two power banks per person and asking that you not recharge one in flight. The exact rules vary by airline, so check your airline's current policy before you fly.

SPARE BATTERIES

8. Spare and Loose Batteries

Any battery not inside a device counts as a spare, and spares go in your carry-on. This includes camera batteries, the little coin cells for a watch or a luggage tracker, and the chunky AA and AAA batteries for a flashlight or hearing aids. Loose batteries stay in the cabin with you.

The one extra care with loose batteries is to keep their metal ends from touching each other or coins and keys, which could cause a short. Leaving them in their original packaging, or taping over the ends, keeps them tidy and safe.

TIP

Keep spare batteries in a small clear bag or their original packaging. For loose camera or lithium batteries, a strip of tape over the metal ends, or a little plastic case, prevents any accidental short.

WHAT CAN BE CHECKED

9. What Is Fine to Put in a Checked Bag

Plenty of your gadgets and accessories are perfectly fine in a checked bag, so you do not have to cram everything into your carry-on. The rule only singles out loose batteries and power banks. Most other things travel either way.

- Chargers, cables, and plug adapters
- Headphones and earbuds, including their small cases
- A hair dryer, electric razor, or similar appliance
- Devices with batteries sealed inside are allowed if checked, though carrying them on is wiser

GOOD TO KNOW

A device with its battery built in, like an old phone or a tablet, is technically allowed in a checked bag. Still, carry valuable electronics on with you, both to protect the battery and so they are never lost with a delayed bag.

LAPTOPS AT SCREENING

10. Taking Your Laptop Out at Security

At the regular security line, you are asked to take your laptop out of its bag and lay it in a bin by itself for the X-ray. This lets the screeners get a clear picture of it. It is a simple step, but a common place for a slow-down if you are not ready.

- 1 Before you reach the belt, unzip the pocket where your laptop lives
- 2 Lift the laptop out and place it flat in its own bin, nothing on top
- 3 Send your bag, shoes, and other bins through as directed
- 4 Collect the laptop first on the other side and slip it back in its pocket

TIP

Pack your laptop where it slides out easily, in an outer pocket rather than buried under clothes. Fumbling for it holds up the line and raises the chance of leaving it behind.

BIGGER ELECTRONICS

11. Tablets and Other Large Devices

The take-it-out rule is not only for laptops. At the regular line, screeners increasingly ask you to place any electronic device larger than a cell phone in its own bin, which can include a large tablet, an e-reader, or a camera. The idea is the same: a clear, uncluttered X-ray picture.

A small phone stays in your bag or pocket, and in PreCheck lanes these devices usually stay packed. Watch the signs and listen to the officer, since the exact instruction can vary by airport and machine.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you are asked, lay the larger device flat in its own bin with nothing stacked on it. A phone-sized device stays with you. When unsure, just ask the officer, who would rather answer than rescreen your bag.

PRECHECK EXCEPTION

12. The PreCheck Shortcut for Electronics

TSA PreCheck is a program that gives you a faster, simpler security line, and one of its nicest perks is that you usually leave your electronics in your bag. No pulling out the laptop, no separate bin for the tablet. You keep your shoes and light jacket on too.

For a traveler who dislikes the scramble of unpacking at the belt, this alone can be worth the enrollment. Your laptop stays tucked safely in its pocket, which also means one fewer thing to forget in a bin. We have a separate guide all about PreCheck and how to sign up.

TIP

In a PreCheck lane, leave the laptop and tablet in your bag unless an officer tells you otherwise. Keeping them packed means far less chance of walking off without one. See our PreCheck guide for how to enroll.

VAPES AND E-CIGARETTES

13. Vapes and E-Cigarettes

If you or a traveling companion uses an e-cigarette or vape, the rule is firm: these go in your carry-on only, never in a checked bag. They contain a lithium battery, so they follow the same cabin-only logic as power banks and spare batteries.

You also may not use or charge a vape on the plane, and you should take care that the device cannot switch on by accident in your bag. Any refill liquid counts as a liquid under the usual rules, so keep bottles small and in your clear liquids bag.

WATCH OUT

Never pack a vape or e-cigarette in a checked bag. Keep it in your carry-on, prevent it from turning on by accident, and do not use or charge it during the flight. Refill liquids follow the 3.4-ounce liquids rule.

MEDICAL DEVICES

14. Medical Devices and Their Batteries

Medical equipment, such as a CPAP machine for sleep, a portable oxygen concentrator, or a continuous glucose monitor, is welcome on board and is handled kindly at security. These devices and their batteries ride in the cabin with you, and a CPAP usually does not count against your carry-on bag allowance.

Larger medical batteries can exceed the ordinary limits, so it is wise to plan ahead. Carry enough battery power for your needs, keep spares in your carry-on, and bring a note or prescription if your device is unusual. A quick call to the airline before the trip settles any questions.

TIP

Tell the TSA officer you have a medical device as you reach the line, and keep it accessible. Airlines often ask you to carry enough battery for well beyond the flight time, so pack generously and confirm the rules with your airline before you fly.

HEARING AIDS AND PACEMAKERS

15. Hearing Aids, Pacemakers, and Implants

Everyday medical items like hearing aids and implanted devices such as a pacemaker are no trouble at the airport. You can wear your hearing aids right through the screening, and you do not need to remove them. The spare tiny batteries for them travel in your carry-on, like all spares.

If you have a pacemaker or similar implant, simply let the officer know, and they can offer a pat-down instead of certain machines if you prefer. Carrying a small card that names your device makes the conversation quick and easy.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keep a handful of spare hearing-aid batteries in your carry-on in their packaging. And if you have an implanted device, a card in your wallet naming it smooths the moment at security with no fuss.

PACKING CABLES

16. Packing Chargers, Cables, and Adapters

The tangle of cables and chargers is where many travelers lose time and patience. Chargers, cables, and plug adapters have no loose battery, so they can go in either bag. The trick is keeping them from becoming a knotted mess at the bottom of your suitcase.

- Use a small zippered pouch to hold all your cables and chargers together
- Roll or coil each cable and secure it with a twist tie or velcro strap
- Label chargers with a bit of tape if several look alike
- Keep the charger you will want on the plane in your personal bag

WATCH OUT

A single cable pouch is one of the best small travel habits there is. Everything lives in one place, nothing tangles, and you never arrive to find you left a charger in a drawer at home.

THE RIGHT ADAPTER

17. Plug Adapters for Other Countries

If you are flying abroad, the wall outlets look different and your plugs will not fit. A plug adapter is a small, cheap piece that lets your charger fit the foreign outlet. It has no battery, so it can travel in either bag, though it is handy to keep in your carry-on for the moment you land.

Most modern chargers handle foreign electricity on their own, so you usually need only the adapter, not a bulky converter. Our guide on charging on the road covers adapters and converters in more detail.

GOOD TO KNOW

Check your charger for the small print 'Input 100 to 240V.' That means it handles foreign power with just a simple plug adapter. Nearly all phone and laptop chargers do, so you rarely need a heavy converter.

ORGANIZING GADGETS

18. Keeping Your Gadgets Organized in One Place

The surest way to avoid losing a gadget is to give everything a home in your bag. When each item has its own pocket, you can tell at a glance whether anything is missing, and you never dig frantically through a suitcase at the gate.

- One pouch for cables and chargers
- A padded sleeve or pocket for the laptop, easy to reach
- A small case for power banks and spare batteries, all in the carry-on
- A set spot for your phone, so it never wanders

TIP

A small electronics organizer pouch, with elastic loops and pockets, keeps your gadgets tidy and visible. One glance tells you everything is there, which is a quiet comfort at a busy airport.

NOT LEAVING THINGS

19. Not Leaving Gadgets at the Checkpoint

Security checkpoints are where countless laptops, phones, and tablets get left behind every day. In the shuffle of bins and shoes, it is easy to walk off without something. A little method keeps all your gadgets with you.

- 1 Put electronics in the last bin so they come out last and you wait for them
- 2 Count your bins before you step away: bag, laptop, shoes, and so on
- 3 Collect the laptop and phone first, and pocket the phone right away
- 4 Do a quick pat of your pockets and bag before leaving the area
- 5 Glance back at the belt one last time as you walk away

WATCH OUT

Do not step away from the belt until every one of your bins has come through and you have gathered its contents. The most common loss is a laptop left sitting in a bin while the owner rushes to put shoes back on.

A TRACKER HELPS

20. A Tracker Tag for Your Gadgets

A small tracker tag, like an AirTag, tucked into your laptop bag or camera case gives you a quiet safety net. If you set the bag down at a gate or leave it in a bin, your phone can help you find it again. It is the same idea as a luggage tracker, pointed at your gadget bag.

The tag can even beep from your phone when you are close, guiding you back to a bag you walked away from. Our separate guide on luggage trackers covers setting one up step by step.

TIP

Slip a tracker tag into the bag that holds your most valuable gadgets. If it is ever left behind, you will know where it is, and the beep can lead you right back to it. See our luggage tracker guide to set one up.

CHARGING BEFORE YOU FLY

21. Charging Up Before the Airport

There is a small screening reason to arrive with charged devices. On rare occasions, an officer may ask you to turn a device on to show it is a working gadget. A dead battery that will not power up can mean extra screening or, in rare cases, not being allowed to bring the device.

So charge your phone, laptop, and tablet the night before, and keep a power bank handy for topping up. It also simply makes for a nicer trip, since you arrive ready to use your devices.

GOOD TO KNOW

Charge your main devices before you leave for the airport. A fully charged phone and laptop make screening smoother, and a charged power bank in your carry-on keeps everything topped up through a long travel day.

CAMERAS AND DRONES

22. Cameras, Drones, and Their Batteries

Cameras and their spare batteries follow the familiar pattern: the camera can go in either bag, but its loose spare batteries belong in your carry-on. Larger camera batteries can edge toward the higher watt-hour tier, so check the number on an unusually big one.

Drones are welcome too, with their batteries carried on. Keep each spare battery in its own case or with its ends taped, since camera and drone batteries are the ones most often large enough to matter.

TIP

Carry the camera body and lenses in a padded bag in the cabin so they are not jostled in the hold. Keep every spare battery with you, each protected from shorting, in that same carry-on.

SMARTWATCHES AND TAGS

23. Smartwatches, Trackers, and Small Gadgets

Little gadgets like a smartwatch, a fitness band, or a luggage tracker are no trouble at all. Their batteries are sealed inside and tiny, well within the rules, and you can wear a watch straight through security, though you may be asked to remove a chunky one for the scanner.

A luggage tracker with its small coin-cell battery is even allowed in a checked bag, as it holds only a sliver of what the rules permit. So you can tag your checked suitcase without worry, as our luggage tracker guide explains.

GOOD TO KNOW

The tiny coin-cell battery sealed inside a luggage tracker is far below the limit, so a tracker is fine in a checked bag. It is loose spare batteries and power banks, not sealed-in ones, that must stay in the cabin.

THE LIQUIDS OVERLAP

24. Where Gadgets Meet the Liquids Rule

A couple of gadget-related items cross into the liquids rule, which limits carry-on liquids to small containers of 3.4 ounces or less in a single quart-sized bag. The main ones for a gadget traveler are vape refill liquid and any liquid cleaner for lenses or screens.

Keep these small and in your clear liquids bag, or pack larger bottles in your checked luggage. A screen-cleaning wipe or a tiny bottle is simplest for the carry-on.

GOOD TO KNOW

Vape e-liquid and lens cleaner count as liquids in your carry-on, so keep them to 3.4 ounces or less in your quart bag. Larger bottles are fine in a checked bag where the liquids rule does not apply.

DAMAGED BATTERIES

25. Damaged, Swollen, or Recalled Batteries

One kind of battery should not fly at all: a damaged one. If a power bank or battery is swollen, dented, leaking, or has been part of a safety recall, leave it at home and replace it. A battery that is puffing up or warped is the rare case where the small risk is real.

It is a good pre-trip habit to glance at your power bank and spare batteries. A healthy battery is flat and firm; a swollen one bulges or feels soft. If anything looks off, do not pack it, and dispose of it properly at a battery recycling drop-off.

WATCH OUT

Never fly with a swollen, dented, or leaking battery, and check for any recall on your power bank before a trip. A damaged lithium battery is the one genuine hazard, and replacing it is cheap peace of mind.

CHECKED BAG BATTERY BAN

26. What Must Never Go in a Checked Bag

It is worth gathering the hard no-list in one place, since these are the items the rules are strict about. All of these must stay out of your checked luggage and ride in the cabin.

- Power banks and portable chargers
- Loose spare batteries of any kind
- Vapes and e-cigarettes
- Any damaged or swollen battery, which should not fly at all

TIP

A good habit is to do a final battery sweep before you close your checked bag: take out any power bank, spare battery, or vape and move it to your carry-on. Thirty seconds now saves a problem at the counter.

AT THE GATE

27. If You Have to Gate-Check a Bag

On a full flight, you may be asked to gate-check your carry-on, meaning it is taken at the door and placed in the hold. This is where travelers can get caught out, because a bag that was a carry-on suddenly becomes a checked bag.

Before you hand it over, pull out your power bank, spare batteries, vape, and any valuable gadget, and keep them with you in the cabin. A small personal bag for exactly this purpose makes the handoff easy.

WATCH OUT

If your carry-on gets gate-checked, take out all batteries, power banks, vapes, and valuable electronics first. Those items must stay in the cabin even when your bag goes below.

AIRLINE DIFFERENCES

28. Why Airlines Can Add Their Own Rules

The TSA screens you, but the airline sets some of its own baggage rules on top, and these can differ from one airline to the next. In particular, several airlines have tightened the rules on how many power banks you may carry and whether you can charge one in flight.

This is why the honest advice is always to check your specific airline's current policy before a trip, especially for power banks and larger batteries. A minute on the airline's website or a quick call clears it up.

GOOD TO KNOW

The TSA rules on what may fly are national, but your airline may limit quantities or in-flight charging further. When in doubt, the airline's own current policy is the final word, so give it a quick look before you pack.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

29. Flying Internationally With Gadgets

The watt-hour limits are much the same the world over, since they come from international aviation agreements. So the carry-on battery rules you follow at home largely apply on flights abroad too. What changes is the plug, which is where your adapter comes in.

Foreign airports screen electronics in similar ways, often asking for laptops out of the bag just as at home. Keep your gadgets organized and your batteries in your carry-on, and you will move through foreign security as smoothly as domestic.

TIP

Pack a plug adapter in your carry-on so you can charge the moment you land abroad. The battery rules travel with you, so the same carry-on habits keep you right at any airport in the world.

COMMON WORRIES

30. The Questions Travelers Ask Me Most

A few worries come up again and again, and the answers are reassuring.

- Can I bring my power bank? Yes, in your carry-on, under 100 watt-hours, which nearly all are
- Will the X-ray hurt my laptop or camera? No, screening does not harm electronics or batteries
- How many power banks can I bring? Often about two; check your airline's current policy
- Can I put my phone charger in my checked bag? Yes, chargers and cables have no loose battery

GOOD TO KNOW

The X-ray at security does not damage your devices, memory cards, or photos. You can send everything through with confidence; the machine only takes a picture of what is inside your bag.

A PACKING ORDER

31. A Smart Order for Packing Your Carry-On

How you pack your carry-on makes the security line faster. The goal is to reach your laptop and any loose batteries without unpacking the whole bag. A little thought at home pays off at the belt.

- 1 Put the laptop in an outer sleeve you can open in one motion
- 2 Keep power banks and spare batteries in one small case, easy to pull out if asked
- 3 Hold liquids in their quart bag near the top
- 4 Keep the plug adapter and the charger you want on the plane within reach
- 5 Leave clothes and bulk at the bottom, out of the way

TIP

Pack as if you will have to reach the laptop and the battery case quickly, because at the regular line you often do. A bag you can open and retrieve from in seconds keeps the whole line moving, including you.

TRAVELING WITH A SPOUSE

32. Sharing the Packing Job With a Partner

When a couple travels, it helps to agree who carries what, so no battery accidentally ends up in the wrong bag. One simple approach is for each person to keep their own gadgets and batteries in their own carry-on, so nothing gets mixed up.

Before you leave, do a quick joint check: are all power banks, spare batteries, and vapes in carry-on bags, not in either checked suitcase? Two sets of eyes catch what one might miss.

TIP

Make the final battery sweep a two-person job at the door. One reads the list aloud, the other confirms. It turns a rule into a shared habit and nothing gets left in a checked bag by mistake.

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

33. Traveling Light on Gadgets

The easiest gadget rules to follow are the ones for gadgets you did not bring. It is worth asking, before each trip, which devices you truly need. Fewer gadgets mean fewer batteries to track, fewer cables to tangle, and fewer things to leave in a bin.

Many travelers find a phone and one power bank cover nearly everything, from photos to maps to calling home. If you do not plan to use the laptop, leaving it home can make security and packing wonderfully simple.

GOOD TO KNOW

There is no prize for carrying the most gadgets. A phone, a charger, a power bank, and perhaps a tablet cover most trips, and a lighter bag is faster through security and easier on your shoulder.

YOUR CHECKLIST

34. Your Pre-Flight Gadget Checklist

Run through this before you zip your bags and you will sail through security with everything accounted for.

- Power banks, spare batteries, and vapes moved to your carry-on
- No loose batteries or power banks left in any checked bag
- All devices charged the night before
- Laptop packed in an easy-to-reach outer sleeve
- Cables and chargers in one pouch; plug adapter handy if flying abroad
- A quick look that no battery is swollen or damaged
- Medical devices accessible, with spares and any note in your carry-on
- A tracker tag in your gadget bag, if you use one

GOOD TO KNOW

The night-before sweep is the one habit that prevents nearly every battery problem at the airport. A calm few minutes at home beats a rushed repack at the counter.

BUYING A GOOD POWER BANK

35. Choosing a Travel-Friendly Power Bank

If you are buying a power bank for travel, a little care gets you one that sails through security and serves you well. The main things are a clear watt-hour rating under 100, a trusted brand, and a size that fits your needs without being needlessly huge.

- Look for a model that clearly prints its watt-hours, ideally under 100 Wh
- Buy from a well-known brand and a reputable store, not an unknown seller
- A capacity around 10,000 to 20,000 mAh covers most phone-charging needs
- Avoid giant banks that creep toward or over the limits unless you truly need them

TIP

A mid-size power bank from a known brand, with its watt-hours printed on the case, is the easy choice. It charges a phone several times over and is comfortably within the rules. Confirm the current price before you buy.

E-READERS AND GAMES

36. E-Readers, Handheld Games, and Toys

Smaller gadgets with sealed-in batteries, like an e-reader for your books, a handheld game for the grandchildren, or a child's electronic toy, are all fine to fly with. Their batteries are built in and modest, so they follow the gentle device rules rather than the strict loose-battery ones.

At the regular line you may be asked to place a larger e-reader or tablet in its own bin, the same as a laptop. Smaller handhelds usually stay in the bag. When traveling with children, a quick check that their gadgets are charged keeps everyone happy on the plane.

GOOD TO KNOW

Toys and games with loose batteries, like a toy that takes AA cells, are simplest if you take the batteries out and keep spares in your carry-on. A sealed-in rechargeable gadget needs no such fuss.

OXYGEN AND LARGER MEDICAL

37. Portable Oxygen and Larger Medical Batteries

Some medical devices, such as a portable oxygen concentrator, run on larger batteries that need a little planning. These are welcome on board, but the device often must be an airline-approved model, and you may need to carry several batteries to cover your trip. This is the one area where calling the airline ahead truly matters.

Airlines commonly ask that you bring enough battery power for substantially longer than the flight, often around one and a half times the flight time, in case of delays. Keep all the batteries in your carry-on, know your device's model, and allow extra time at the gate.

WATCH OUT

For a portable oxygen concentrator or similar device, call your airline well before the trip to confirm their approval and battery requirements. The rules are stricter for these than for an ordinary gadget, and each airline differs.

HEAT AND COLD

38. Protecting Batteries From Heat and Cold

Batteries do not love extremes of temperature. A phone or power bank left baking in a hot car or sitting on a sunny windowsill can be stressed, and bitter cold can make a battery drain faster and act sluggish. On a trip, a little shade and shelter keeps your gadgets healthy.

This matters most for a rental car in summer or a ski trip in winter. Do not leave your power bank or phone cooking on a dashboard, and tuck gadgets into a pocket in very cold weather. They will last longer and work better for it.

TIP

Treat your batteries as you would a chocolate bar: fine at room temperature, unhappy baking in a hot car. A little shade in summer and a warm pocket in winter keeps them working their best.

IF ASKED TO INSPECT

39. If an Officer Asks About a Device

Once in a while a security officer will ask to take a closer look at a gadget, or ask you to turn it on. This is routine and nothing to worry about. A quick extra look at an electronic device is a normal part of screening, and being ready makes it painless.

- Keep devices charged so you can power one on if asked
- Have your gadgets reachable, not buried under clothes
- Answer plainly what a device is; officers screen many each day
- Stay patient and unhurried, and it is over in a moment

GOOD TO KNOW

Being asked to power on a laptop or camera is a simple check that it is a working device. A charged battery turns it into a two-second task, which is one more reason to charge up before you leave home.

THE RETURN TRIP

40. Repacking for the Flight Home

The rules apply just as much on the way home, and the return trip is where tired travelers slip up. After a wonderful vacation, it is easy to toss a power bank into whichever bag is nearest. Give the same calm sweep to your packing for the flight home.

- 1 Gather all your gadgets and chargers from around the room
- 2 Move every power bank, spare battery, and vape into your carry-on
- 3 Do a last look at outlets, the nightstand, and the bathroom for chargers
- 4 Charge your devices the night before the return flight
- 5 Keep the laptop in its easy-reach sleeve as you did coming out

TIP

Souvenirs often add new gadgets or batteries to your bags, so the return sweep matters as much as the first. A quick check keeps your batteries in the cabin and your chargers from being left in the hotel.

WHEN TO CALL

41. When It Is Worth Calling Me

Most people can sort their gadgets for a flight once someone explains the rules plainly, which is what this guide is for. But if you are unsure whether a particular power bank or medical battery is allowed, if you want help setting up a tidy travel kit, or if you would like a tracker tag added to your laptop bag before a trip, that is exactly what I am here for. I have more than 30 years with this kind of technology and serve families all across Portage County.

TIP

I can help you build a simple, organized travel gadget kit, check that your batteries and power banks are within the rules, and set up a tracker so nothing gets left at a checkpoint. Call Bill's Home Tech at (330) 200-8042, or ask Sophie, our phone helper. The first in-home visit is a flat \$99, and remote screen-share help is \$49.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy for your trip. It is the short answer to flying with batteries, laptops, and gadgets.

- Power banks and spare batteries: carry-on only, never checked
- Vapes and e-cigarettes: carry-on only; no using or charging them in flight
- Watt-hour limits: under 100 Wh is fine; 100 to 160 Wh needs airline approval; over 160 Wh not allowed
- A typical phone power bank (around 20,000 mAh) is well under the limit
- At the regular line, take the laptop out into its own bin; PreCheck lets it stay in the bag
- Chargers, cables, and adapters can go in either bag
- Charge devices before the airport in case you are asked to power one on
- Never fly with a swollen or damaged battery; check for recalls
- Count your bins and pocket your phone before leaving the checkpoint
- Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Carry-On or Checked?

Where each kind of gadget belongs.

Carry-On Only

Power banks
Spare batteries
Vapes and e-cigs

Carry-On Preferred

Laptop and tablet
Phone and camera
Medical devices

Either Bag

Chargers and cables
Plug adapters
Headphones

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Through Security With Nothing Left Behind

A simple order that keeps your gadgets with you.

- 1 At home, move all batteries to your carry-on
- 2 Pack the laptop in an easy-to-reach sleeve
- 3 At the line, lay the laptop in its own bin
- 4 Send electronics through in the last bin
- 5 Collect the laptop and phone first
- 6 Count your bins before you walk away

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.