



An Extended Guide · No. 1126

Samsung Galaxy S26

Samsung's compact
flagship, in plain English

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Hello, and welcome

Congratulations on the Samsung Galaxy S26 — a lovely phone. This guide walks you through it in plain, friendly English: no jargon, no rabbit holes, just the things that actually help.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping folks get comfortable with their technology — patiently, in plain language, and at their own pace. Think of this guide as me sitting at your kitchen table, pointing things out one at a time.

You do not have to read this all at once, and you certainly don't have to memorize it. Skip to whatever you need, keep it in the drawer with your appliance manuals, and know that a real person is only a phone call away.

★ How to use this guide

Each page stands on its own. Read one, try it on your phone, and come back for the next when you're ready. If a step ever feels fuzzy, that's on the writing — not on you — and you can always call me at (330) 200-8042.

What makes the Samsung Galaxy S26 special

Here are the things worth knowing, in plain English — no need to remember the fancy names.

A true flagship in a size that fits your hand

The S26 packs Samsung's best everyday features into the smallest, lightest body in the lineup — about 167 grams. If you like a phone you can actually use one-handed, this is the one to hold first.

A faster brain and a bigger battery

It runs Samsung's newest Snapdragon chip (quick and efficient) and carries a larger 4,300mAh battery than the model before it, so it comfortably lasts the day for most people.

Smarter, more helpful software

One UI 9 adds Samsung's Galaxy AI helpers and Google's Gemini assistant — handy for quick questions, summaries and voice typing. You only use the parts you want; the rest stays out of the way.

Wireless charging and tough glass

It charges wirelessly (the newer Qi2 kind) and is built with Gorilla Glass Victus 2 and an IP68 water-and-dust rating — the whole phone can handle a splash or a dusty pocket.

A quick tour of the buttons

Just a handful of buttons run the whole phone. Here's what each one does.

- The **side key** on the right edge turns the screen on and off with a quick press. Press and hold it to power the phone off or bring up Google's helper — I can set which it does.
- The **volume buttons**, also on the right edge, make sounds louder or softer.
- The **charging port** on the bottom is the modern USB-C shape — the same kind of cable many newer gadgets use.

Everything else happens by tapping the glass with a fingertip. A single, gentle tap is all it takes — no need to press hard or tap twice.

✓ Swipe down for the quick controls

Drag one finger down from the very top of the screen and a panel of handy switches slides in — Wi-Fi, the flashlight, brightness, sound. Samsung calls it Quick Settings, and it's the fastest way to reach the things you use most.

Setting it up, step by step

Setting up your Samsung Galaxy S26 takes about twenty minutes, most of which is the phone doing the work while you sip your coffee.

- 1. Charge it up.** Plug it in for a bit so it has plenty of power for setup.
- 2. Turn it on and follow along.** Hold the side key until the screen lights up, then follow the friendly on-screen prompts. They walk you through picking your language, joining your home Wi-Fi, and setting up your fingerprint.
- 3. Sign in with your Google Account.** This is the email (a Gmail address) and password that ties your apps, photos and contacts together. If you've had an Android phone before, use the same one. If you're brand-new, the phone helps you make one. Samsung will also offer a **Samsung Account** — it's free and unlocks a few Samsung extras, but the Google one is the important key.

✓ Write down your accounts

Your Google Account (and Samsung Account) email and password are the keys to everything. Write them on paper and keep them somewhere safe at home. If you ever get stuck, that little note saves the day — and I can help you set it up so you're not guessing.

Bringing everything from your old phone

The good news: your photos, contacts and messages can come with you. You don't start from scratch.

Samsung has a free app called **Smart Switch** that does the heavy lifting. When you set up the new phone, it offers to copy your stuff over. Set your old phone next to the new one, follow the prompts, and it brings across your contacts, photos, messages and most of your apps.

Coming from another Android phone (a Samsung, Motorola, or the like)? Smart Switch can copy over with a cable or wirelessly, and it moves nearly everything. **Coming from an iPhone?** It can do that too, though it takes a bit more care — that's one of the most common calls I get.

★ Don't want to risk losing anything?

Moving to a new phone is my single most-requested house call. For a flat \$99 I'll come to you, move everything over, get your email and contacts working, and make sure nothing's left behind before I leave. Call (330) 200-8042.

Making the screen easy on your eyes

Your Galaxy can make everything bigger and clearer. These are the settings I turn on for folks most often.

Open **Settings** (the gear icon), then **Display**. Tap **Font size and style** and drag the slider until the words feel comfortable — you can make the letters bolder here too. Back in Display, **Screen zoom** makes everything on screen — icons, buttons, text — larger with one slider.

For even more, go to **Settings > Accessibility > Visibility enhancements**. There you'll find **High contrast fonts**, a **Color contrast** boost, and a full-screen **Magnifier** for reading tiny print.

Want the whole phone simpler and bigger? **Easy mode** (in Settings > Display) switches to a cleaner layout with larger icons and text — more on that in a couple of pages.

✓ One handy shortcut: the Magnifier

Your Galaxy can turn its camera into a magnifying glass for small print — a menu, a pill bottle, a warranty card. It's in Accessibility, and I'll show you how to keep it one tap away.

Making it easy to hear

A few settings make calls, videos and alerts easier to hear — and easier to follow.

The **volume buttons** on the right side raise and lower sound. During a phone call, press the top volume button to make the caller louder.

Turn on **captions** — words on the screen for videos — in **Settings > Accessibility > Hearing enhancements**. There's even **Live Caption**, which puts words on almost any video or voicemail automatically. Wonderful when the sound alone is hard to catch.

Your Galaxy also works with many modern **hearing aids** over Bluetooth, and supports the newer **Auracast** broadcasts in some public places. In Hearing enhancements you'll also find **Adapt Sound**, which tunes the sound to your hearing.

✓ Let's tune it to your ears

Adapt Sound plays some soft beeps and adjusts the phone to what you hear best — a nice little test that makes calls and music clearer. It takes two minutes, and I'm glad to set it up with you.

Unlocking with your fingerprint

This phone opens with your fingerprint — quick, private, and easier than typing a code every time.

During setup the phone asks you to rest your finger on a spot near the bottom of the screen — you press your fingertip flat on the marked circle a few times so it can learn your print. After that, a light touch unlocks the phone, signs you into apps, and approves purchases.

You can add more than one finger — say a thumb and a forefinger, or a finger from each hand — in **Settings > Security and privacy > Fingerprints**. I'd add at least two so you're never stuck.

The phone can also unlock when it **sees your face**, which is handy. Just know Samsung's face unlock uses an ordinary camera, so it's a little less secure than the fingerprint — fine for quick use, but I'd use the fingerprint for banking and payments.

✓ Always set a PIN too

Your fingerprint is the quick way in, but the phone also has a numbered PIN (or a pattern) as a backup for when a finger is wet or cold. Pick something you'll remember, write it on paper, and keep it safe at home.

The Home Screen, arranged your way

The Home Screen is the wall of icons you see first. You can make it calmer and put your favorites front and center.

To move an app, press and hold it until a little menu appears, then drag it where you want and let go. Put the apps you use most — Phone, Messages, Camera, Photos — on the very first screen, close to your thumb.

All your apps live in the Apps screen. Swipe up from the bottom of the Home Screen to see every app in a tidy grid. To put one on your Home Screen, hold it there and choose **Add to Home**. To clear an icon off the Home Screen (without deleting the app), hold it and tap **Remove**.

You can also add big, easy-to-read **widgets** — a large clock, the weather, your calendar. Press and hold an empty spot, tap **Widgets**, and pick one.

★ Let's make it simple together

Setting up a clean, senior-friendly Home Screen — big icons, only the apps you use, a large clock — is one of my favorite things to do on a visit. It makes the whole phone feel calmer. Call (330) 200-8042.

Want it even simpler? Easy mode

If the phone feels busy, Samsung has a beautifully simple mode built right in — no extra app to buy.

It's called **Easy mode**, in **Settings > Display > Easy mode**. It makes the icons and text bigger, spaces things out, and lays out the Home Screen in a clean, simple grid that's hard to get lost in. Your most-used contacts and apps sit right up front.

It's a wonderful option for someone who finds the regular screen cluttered or worrying, or who just wants the phone to do a few things well. And you can switch back to the standard layout any time — nothing is lost.

✓ Easy to try, easy to undo

Easy mode is a single switch, on or off. If you'd like to see what it looks like before deciding, I can turn it on, walk you through it, and switch it back if it's not your cup of tea.

Talking instead of typing

Typing on glass can be fiddly. The good news: you can just talk, and the phone listens.

Voice typing turns your voice into text. Any time the keyboard is on screen, tap the little **microphone** and speak — your words appear as you talk. Grand for texts, emails and notes without hunting for letters.

Google Gemini is the helper you speak to. Say "Hey Google," or press and hold the side key, then ask plainly: "Call my daughter," "Set a timer for twenty minutes," "What's the weather tomorrow?" or "Remind me to take my pills at eight." Samsung's own helper, **Bixby**, is there too if you prefer it.

✓ **Speak naturally**

You don't need special robot words — talk to it the way you'd ask a person. And if it mishears, just try again; nothing breaks. This is one of the most useful habits to build on a new phone.

The camera, made simple

Taking a good photo is easier than you'd think — the phone does the hard part.

Three cameras on the back — a main 50-megapixel camera, a 3x zoom lens, and a wide-angle lens — so you're covered from a whole room to a grandchild across the yard. For everyday photos you just point and tap; the phone handles the rest. There's also a night mode (Samsung calls it Nightography) that brightens up dim rooms and evenings.

To take a photo: open the **Camera** app, point it at what you want, and tap the big round button. That's it. To see the photo you just took, tap the little thumbnail in the corner — or open the **Gallery** (or **Photos**) app any time; every picture lands there automatically.

Pinch two fingers apart on the screen to zoom in, together to zoom back out. Tap the screen where you want the phone to focus, and it'll sharpen right up. In dim light, the phone's night mode kicks in on its own.

✓ Your photos can back themselves up

If you turn on **Google Photos** backup, every picture is safely copied to your Google account, so a lost or broken phone never means lost memories. I can make sure that's switched on for you.

Battery and charging

Keeping your phone charged is simple once you know the handful of things that matter.

A 4,300mAh battery that comfortably lasts a full day of normal use — calls, texts, browsing, photos and a bit of video.

It charges with a cable at 25 watts (about halfway in half an hour) and can also charge wirelessly on a pad. It supports the newer Qi2 wireless standard, so if you'd like the magnetic snap-on chargers, you'll want a Qi2-ready case that adds the magnets.

A good habit: top it up overnight on your nightstand, the way you'd charge a hearing aid or a watch. You do not need to run it all the way down first — that's an old idea from old batteries. Charge whenever it's handy.

✓ Want the magnetic snap-on chargers? Add a case

This phone charges wirelessly on a pad, and it's built for the newer "Qi2" magnetic chargers that snap on and line themselves up — but to get that magnetic snap you'll want a Qi2-ready case that has the magnets built in. The plain wireless pad works without any special case.

Staying safe from scams

Your new phone is safe. The people who try to trick you come in by text, email and phone call — and a few simple habits keep you well clear of them.

Samsung and Google will never call, text or email to say your account is locked, your phone is hacked, or you owe money. Those are scams, every time. Don't tap the link, don't call the number, don't read out a code. Just delete it.

Nobody legitimate needs a code you were texted. If someone on the phone asks you to read back a number Google, your bank, or Amazon just sent you, that is a scam in progress. Hang up.

Slow down. Anyone rushing you — "act now," "don't tell anyone," "buy gift cards" — is a scammer. Real companies never work that way. It is always okay to hang up and check with someone you trust. Your Galaxy also has **Google Play Protect** quietly watching your apps for trouble.

! A family safe-word beats any scam

Agree on a private word with your family. If a "grandchild" calls in trouble asking for money, ask for the safe word. A real loved one will know it; a scammer won't. And if anything feels off, call me at (330) 200-8042 — I would much rather answer a "silly" question than help clean up after a scam.

Calls, texts and video chats

The whole reason for a phone: keeping close to the people you love. Here's the easy version.

To make a call, open the **Phone** app and tap a name in your Favorites or Recents. To add someone to Favorites, open their contact and tap the star (or **Add to Favorites**) — then they're always one tap away.

To send a text, open **Messages**, tap the pencil or + to start a new one, pick a name, write your note, and tap the send arrow. Remember you can tap the microphone and just speak instead of typing.

To video chat, a free app like **Google Meet** lets you see each other face-to-face over Wi-Fi. If your family uses something else — WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger — those work too. Seeing a grandchild's face is worth the tiny bit of setup, and I'm glad to help with that first call.

✓ Group texts with the family

When several family members are in one text conversation, that's a "group text." You can name it, mute it when it gets chatty, and still catch up later. A nice way to stay in the loop without being buzzed all day.

Help when you need it most

Your Galaxy has real safety features built in. I set these up for every customer, because they can matter enormously.

Emergency SOS: press the side key quickly five times and the phone can call 911 for you and text your chosen people that you need help, sharing your location. You turn it on in **Settings > Safety and emergency**.

Medical info: you can store your medications, allergies and an emergency contact so first responders can see them even while the phone is locked. It's in the same **Safety and emergency** settings, under **Medical info**.

Emergency contacts: add the people who should be reached if something happens, so the phone can notify them with a tap or as part of an SOS.

★ Let's set up your safety features

Emergency SOS, Medical info and your emergency contacts take ten minutes to set up and can make all the difference. I include this on every setup visit — or call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll do it together.

Never lose your phone (or each other)

If your phone goes missing, you can find it — and, if you like, stay aware of family.

Your Galaxy works with two "find" services: Google's **Find Hub** (find any Android device) and Samsung's own **SmartThings Find**. Misplaced the phone in the house? From a computer or a family member's phone, sign in and make yours **play a sound** — even on silent — so you can follow the chirp to the couch cushions.

Families often **share locations** so they can see each other on a map — a real comfort for adult children and parents alike. It's entirely optional and you choose exactly who can see you.

✓ Turn it on before you need it

Find Hub only helps if it's switched on ahead of time — it usually is by default, but it's worth checking. I'll confirm it's on and show you how to use it, so a lost phone is a five-minute worry instead of an all-day one.

Keeping it current and clutter-free

Two little housekeeping habits keep your Galaxy happy for years.

Software updates keep the phone secure and add features — for free. When the phone offers one, it's safe to say yes; do it overnight while it's plugged in. You can check any time in **Settings > Software update > Download and install**. Samsung has promised this phone 7 years of updates, so it'll stay current and safe for a good long while.

Running low on space? Usually it's photos and videos. Turn on **Google Photos** backup so older pictures live safely online, and remove apps you never open (press and hold the icon, then **Uninstall**). The phone can even suggest what's safe to clear in **Settings > Device care**.

✓ Updates are good news, not a bother

It's tempting to ignore that little update nudge, but updates are how Samsung keeps your phone safe from the latest tricks. If you're ever unsure whether an update is real, check in Settings — the fakes come by text or pop-up, never from the Settings app.

A few favorite everyday tricks

Little things that make the phone genuinely more useful. Try one at a time.

- **Flashlight:** swipe down from the top for Quick Settings and tap the flashlight. Perfect for a dark keyhole or a dropped earring.
- **Magnifier & Google Lens:** your camera doubles as a magnifying glass, and Google Lens can read small print aloud, translate a menu, or identify a plant.
- **Reminders & timers:** just ask — "Hey Google, remind me to call the doctor at ten," "set a timer for the roast."
- **Scan a document:** Samsung Notes (or Google Drive) can take a clean picture of a paper form and save it as a PDF — no printer needed.
- **Circle to Search:** press and hold the Home button and circle anything on the screen to look it up — a word, a landmark, a product.

★ Want a tour of the good stuff?

There are dozens of these little helpers, and half the fun of a new phone is discovering the ones that fit your life. On a visit I love showing folks the three or four that'll actually make their day easier. Call (330) 200-8042.

When something's not quite right

Most hiccups have a calm, simple fix. Nine times in ten, it's one of these.

Frozen or acting strange? Restart it. The quickest cure for almost anything is to turn the phone off and back on. Hold the **side key and the volume-down button** together until the power menu appears, then tap **Restart**.

Won't connect to the internet? Open Quick Settings (swipe down from the top) and check that Wi-Fi is on, or try turning it off and on. If your home internet is down, the phone isn't the problem.

Screen too dark or too quiet? Swipe down from the top for Quick Settings and check the brightness and volume sliders — it's surprising how often that's all it is.

★ Stuck? That's what I'm here for

Never wrestle with it alone or feel foolish for asking. A quick call often sorts it out, and if it needs a visit, I can often fix it right on your screen remotely for a flat \$49, or come to you for \$99. Call (330) 200-8042.

Is this the right phone for you?

A straight answer, the way I'd give it at your kitchen table.

Price: as of September 2026 the Samsung Galaxy S26 starts around \$899.99 (256GB). Prices change over time and carriers often lower them with a trade-in, and this model is frequently on sale, so always check the current price — or just ask me — before you buy.

This phone is a great fit for someone who wants Samsung's top-tier features — great screen, great cameras, years of updates — but in a smaller, lighter phone that's easy to hold and pocket.

Consider a different model if: If you'd like a bigger screen for reading, look at the S26+ or S26 Ultra. If money's the main thing, the Galaxy S26 FE or the Galaxy A57 give you a lot for less.

The Galaxy S26 is the one I point most Samsung fans to when they want a genuine flagship without a giant phone. It does everything most people need beautifully and will get software updates for seven years. If you want a bigger screen, step up to the S26+ or Ultra; if you want to spend less, the S26 FE or A57 are excellent value. Buy from Samsung, a carrier (ask about trade-in credit), or a trusted store like Best Buy — not a stranger online.

★ Not sure which to get? Ask me first

I don't sell phones and I don't earn a commission, so my advice is just honest advice. Tell me how you use your phone and I'll tell you which model — and how to get the best price. Call (330) 200-8042.

You don't have to remember all of it

You just have to remember that a friendly, patient person is one call away.

I hope this guide made your Samsung Galaxy S26 feel a little more like a friend and a little less like a puzzle. Keep it in a drawer, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. A first visit is a flat \$99, and I can often help right on your screen remotely for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee.

★ Bill's Home Tech — real help, close to home

Call or text me at (330) 200-8042, or visit BillsHomeTech.com. Serving Atwater and all of Portage County. 30+ years of patient, plain-English tech help — and if you're ever not 100% happy with a visit, I'll make it right or refund it. That's a promise. — Bill

The Galaxy S26 at a Glance

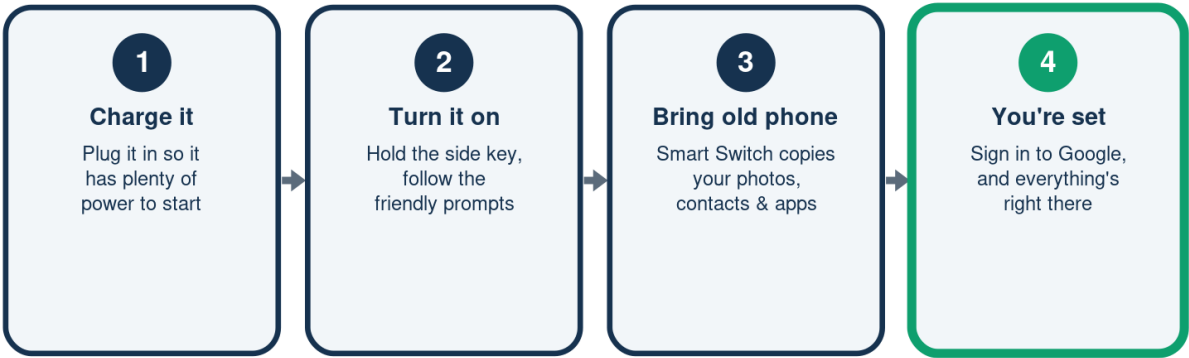
The plain-English version

The short answer		Why it's nice
Screen size	6.3 inches	One-hand friendly
Battery	4,300mAh	A full day
Cameras	Three on the back	3x zoom included
Unlock	Fingerprint or face	Fingerprint is safest
Starting price	Around \$899.99	Often on sale

The Galaxy S26 is Samsung's compact flagship — top features in the lightest, easiest-to-hold size.

Your First Day, Step by Step

Setting up your Galaxy, the easy way



It's mostly the phone doing the work while you have your coffee.

Make It Easy to See & Hear

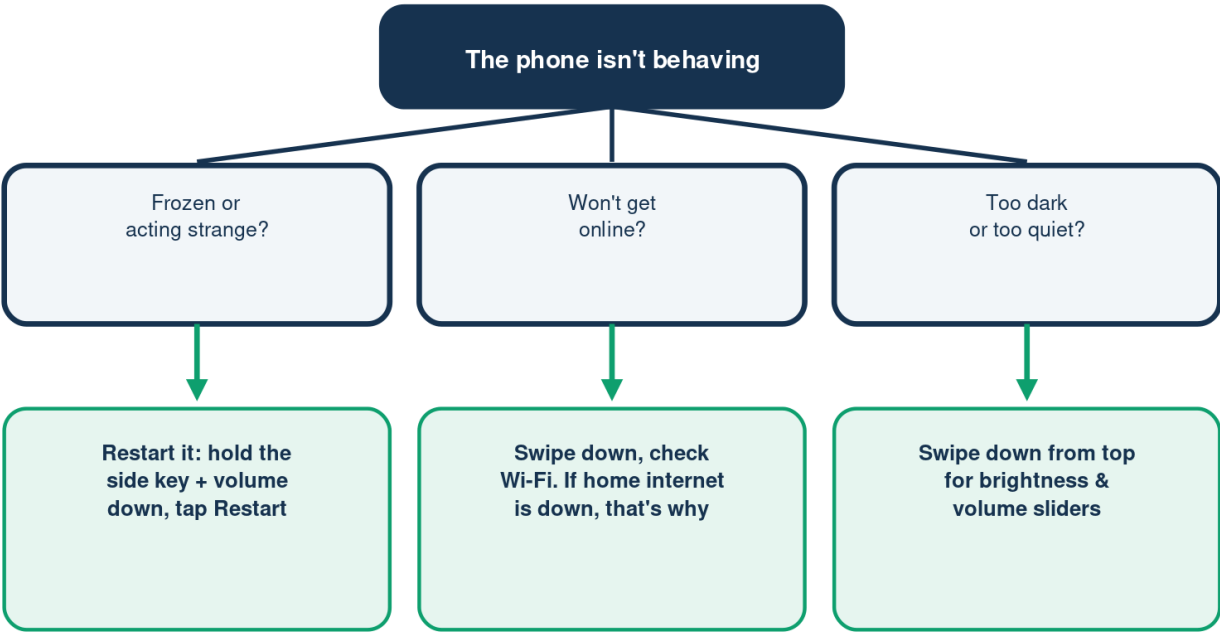
A few settings that help the most

	Where to find it	What it does
Bigger words	Settings > Display	Font size & zoom
Simple layout	Display > Easy mode	Bigger, cleaner
Magnifier	Accessibility	Camera as a lens
Captions	Hearing enhance.	Words on videos
Louder calls	Volume buttons	Hearing-aid ready

Prefer to have it set up for you? That's what a \$99 visit is for.

Something Not Right? Start Here

Three everyday hiccups and the calm fix for each



Still stuck? Never wrestle it alone — call Bill at (330) 200-8042.

Illustration - a schematic, not to scale. Your setup may differ.



Need a Real Person?

You do not have to remember all of it.
You just have to remember you can call.
Friendly, in-home tech help — I come to you.

BILL'S PROMISE

If you are not 100% happy with a visit, I will
make it right — or refund it. No awkwardness,
no fine print. That is how I would want to be treated.

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Bill@BillsHomeTech.com · Mon–Sat 9:00 AM – 7:30 PM

— Bill

Prefer help without a visit?

Bill can screen-share and fix many things remotely — a flat \$49, free for Support Plan members.



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 comes from using these guides. Thanks for reading, and stay safe out there.

— *Bill*



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