



Keeping Your Phone Charged and Dry on the Water

never a disaster An Extended Guide · No. 2050

————— An Extended Guide · No. 2050 —————

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 read only this page, your phone will still make it home dry. Keeping a phone alive on the water comes down to two jobs: keep it dry and keep it charged. A floating waterproof pouch handles the water. A charged power bank handles the battery. Add a sturdy mount so it is not sliding around, and you have covered nearly every problem before it starts. A floating waterproof pouch or case keeps a splash from becoming a funeral A floating lanyard means a dropped phone does not sink to the bottom A charged power bank in a dry bag saves the day when the battery fades A solid mount keeps the phone off the wet deck and in your view Keep it out of direct sun — heat drains the battery and can shut it down You do not need expensive gear. A pouch, a lanyard, and a power bank together cost less than a tank of gas, and they protect a device worth many times that. THE PROBLEM 2. Why Phones Drown and Die on the Water A boat is a hard place for a phone. It is wet, it bounces, and it bakes in the sun. Phones slip out of shirt pockets, slide off seats, and go over the side in the time it takes to net a fish. And a battery that lasts all day at home can run flat by lunch when the screen is fighting bright glare. None of this is bad luck. It is just the water working against a device that was built for a living room. Once you understand the three things that go wrong, each one has a simple, cheap fix. TIP Think of your phone on the boat the way you think of your wallet and keys: it needs a safe home where it will not slide, splash, or get left in the sun.

THE THREE RISKS

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3. The Three Real Risks Almost every phone disaster on the water is one of three things. Water getting inside. A drop into the lake. Or heat and a dead battery. Name the enemy and the answer is obvious. Water: a splash, a rain shower, or a full dunk The drop: over the side and straight to the bottom Heat and battery: sun cooks it, the charge fades, it shuts off A pouch answers the first. A floating lanyard answers the second. Shade and a power bank answer the third. Everything in this guide is just those three ideas done well. IP RATINGS

4. IP Ratings in Plain English You will see phones and gear labeled with an IP rating, like IP67 or IP68. It is a simple code. The first number is dust protection, and the second number is water protection. A higher second number means it survives deeper water for longer. IP67: survives a brief dunk in shallow water IP68: survives deeper water for a longer time — the better rating The letters 'IP' just mean 'Ingress Protection' A higher second digit is what matters for the lake An IP rating is tested in still, clean water. Real lake water with waves, pressure, and grit is tougher. Treat the rating as a cushion, not a promise, and keep the phone dry anyway. YOUR PHONE 5. Is Your Phone Already Water-Resistant? Many newer phones are water-resistant on their own, often rated IP67 or IP68. That is a lovely safety net, but it is not the same as waterproof, and it does not last forever. The seals wear out with age and the rating does not cover a phone that is already scratched or cracked. Check your phone's rating in its manual or the maker's website Water resistance fades as the phone ages and seals wear

WATCH OUT

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A cracked screen or worn port breaks the seal Resistance covers an accident, not swimming or deliberate dunking Even a water-resistant phone can be ruined by a drop into the lake, because it sinks. The rating keeps a splash from killing it; it does not make the phone float back up to you. POUCH OR CASE 6. A Pouch or a Hard Case? There are two main ways to waterproof a phone for the boat. A soft pouch is a sealed plastic sleeve you drop the phone into. A hard waterproof case bolts around the phone and stays on all the time. Both work; they just suit different people. Soft pouch: cheap, universal, lets you seal any phone in seconds Hard case: always-on protection, bulkier, made to fit one phone model A pouch is the easy, low-cost starting point for most folks A hard case suits someone on the water often who wants no fuss If you are not sure, start with a pouch. It costs little, fits any phone, and you can decide later whether you want something more permanent. THE POUCH 7. The Floating Waterproof Pouch A floating pouch is the single best value in phone protection on the water. It is a clear, sealed sleeve with a sturdy clip at the top. You slide the phone in, fold and lock the top, and it keeps water out while letting you still see and use the screen through the clear plastic. Clear front and back so you can see and tap the screen A locking top that seals against splashes and dunks Many float or can be made to float with a foam insert Fits almost any phone, so it moves to your next phone too TIP Test a new pouch empty first. Seal it, hold it underwater for a minute, then check for drops inside before you ever trust it with your phone.

LANYARDS**7. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

8. Floating Lanyards and Tethers The drop into the water is what really sinks a phone. A floating lanyard solves it for a couple of dollars. It is a cord that clips to the pouch or case on one end and either floats on the surface or loops around your neck or wrist so the phone can never get away. A floating cord keeps a dropped phone on the surface, not the bottom. A neck or wrist loop keeps it tethered to you at all times. Clip it to a pouch, a case, or a mount so it is always on. Bright colors make a floating phone easy to spot and scoop up. A floating lanyard is the cheapest insurance on this list. Even if the pouch keeps the phone dry, the lanyard is what lets you get it back out of the water.

DRY BAGS

9. Dry Bags for the Rest A dry bag is a roll-top sack that keeps water out of whatever you put in it. It is not just for the phone — it is the safe, dry home for your power bank, cables, keys, wallet, and anything else that must not get wet. One small dry bag keeps your whole kit together and protected. Roll the top down three times and clip it to seal. Keep the power bank and cables dry so they still work. Clip or tie the bag to the boat so it cannot slide overboard. A bright color is easier to find in a hurry.

TIP Keep the dry bag in the same spot every trip. When your phone, charger, and keys all live in one bag, nothing gets left on the dash or dropped on the dock.

TOUCHSCREEN

10. Using the Touchscreen Through a Pouch People worry the screen will not work inside a pouch. It works fine. The clear plastic is thin enough that your finger still registers on the glass underneath, so you can tap, swipe, and type as usual. It feels a little different, but you get used to it in a minute.

WATCH OUT**8. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Tapping and swiping work right through the clear plastic. A dry finger works better than a wet one on the pouch. Press a touch more firmly than you would on the bare screen. Wipe water droplets off the outside so the screen reads your taps. A wet pouch surface can give you false taps as water droplets fool the screen. Give the front a quick wipe with a dry cloth and it behaves again.

PHOTOS 11. Taking Photos Through the Pouch You can still snap pictures of the big catch with the phone sealed in its pouch. Most pouches have clear plastic over the camera lens so your photos come through. They will not be quite as sharp as the bare lens, but they are plenty good for a fish photo or a sunset on the water. Shoot right through the clear back of the pouch. Keep that plastic clean and free of water spots for a clearer shot. Wipe off splashes before an important photo. Pull the phone out only when you are safely on shore for the best shots. A smudge or water droplet on the pouch is the usual reason a photo looks hazy. A quick wipe with a dry shirt corner fixes most blurry boat pictures.

FACE ID 12. Face ID and Fingerprint in a Pouch Unlocking the phone through a pouch can be fiddly. Face unlock often still works through the clear plastic, but a fingerprint reader may not read your finger through it. A few minutes of setup before the trip saves a lot of frustration out on the water. Face unlock usually works through the clear front of the pouch. A fingerprint reader may not work through plastic. Set a passcode you can type through the pouch as a fallback. Turn off auto-lock for short periods so it does not keep locking.

TIP**9. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Set your screen to stay on a little longer while you are on the water. It saves you unlocking the phone over and over through the pouch every time you check the map. **THE MOUNT** 13. A Sturdy Mount at the Helm A phone slipping around a wet deck is a phone about to go overboard. A good mount holds it where you can see it, keeps it off the wet floor, and frees your hands for driving or fishing. The sturdy, ball-and-socket style known as a RAM mount is the standard on boats because it grips hard and takes a pounding. Holds the phone in view for maps and the fish finder app Keeps it off the wet deck and out of the splash A RAM-style mount is marine-tough and adjusts to any angle Clamp it where it will not block your view of the water My 12-volt power and mounts guide goes deeper on mounting and wiring at the helm. A mount plus a charging cable turns the phone into a steady, always-on dashboard. **SMALL BOATS** 14. Mounting on a Kayak or Small Boat A kayak or jon boat does not have a dashboard, but it still needs the phone held safe and in view. Small clamp mounts grip a rail, a rod holder, or a crossbar. On a kayak, a mount near the cockpit keeps the phone where you can glance at a map without taking a hand off the paddle for long. A clamp mount grips a rail, bar, or rod holder Keep the phone within an easy glance, not a reach Always add a tether so a bump cannot bounce it into the water Keep it low and secure so it does not upset your balance **TIP** My kayak and small-boat tech guide covers mounts and safety gear sized for paddle craft. On a small boat, a tether matters even more than on a big one.

SUN AND HEAT**10. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

15. Keeping It Out of Sun and Heat A phone left in the sun on a boat gets hot fast, and heat is hard on a phone. It drains the battery quicker, dims the screen, and can even make the phone shut itself off to cool down. A little shade keeps it happy all day. Keep the phone in shade whenever you are not using it A light-colored dry bag stays cooler than a dark one in the sun Do not leave it face-up on a hot seat or dash If it feels hot, move it to shade and let it cool before using it **WATCH OUT** A phone that overheats will throw a warning and refuse to work until it cools. If that happens, do not put it in cold water — just move it to shade and give it a few minutes. **HEAT AND BATTERY** 16. Why Heat Drains the Battery Two things gang up on your battery on a sunny boat. First, the bright sun makes the screen turn itself all the way up so you can see it, and a bright screen is the biggest battery drain there is. Second, heat itself makes the battery work harder and fade faster. Together they can flatten a phone by midday. A bright screen fighting glare is the number-one battery drain Heat makes the battery drain faster on top of that Lowering the screen brightness in shade stretches the charge Closing unused apps and maps you are not watching helps too This is exactly why a power bank earns its place in the dry bag. On a bright day, even a healthy phone can need a top-up before you head in.

POWER BANKS**11. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

17. Power Banks Explained A power bank is a battery in a box that charges your phone from a cable, with no wall outlet needed. You charge the bank at home, toss it in the dry bag, and it tops up your phone out on the water. The size is measured in milliamp-hours, written as mAh — a bigger number holds more charge. Charge the bank fully at home before every trip A 10,000 mAh bank refills a typical phone two or three times A 20,000 mAh bank gives you more trips between charges Keep a charging cable with it so it is ready to use TIP Charge the power bank the night before, alongside your phone. A dead power bank in the dry bag is the kind of surprise you only want to have once. SIZING 18. Sizing a Power Bank for the Day You do not need a giant battery for a day on the lake. A 10,000 mAh bank is plenty for most outings and fits in a shirt pocket. If several people share it, or you are out dawn to dusk running maps and music, step up to 20,000 mAh for the extra headroom. A half-day trip: a small 10,000 mAh bank is plenty A full day running maps and music: lean toward 20,000 mAh Sharing with the family: bigger is better Prices range from modest to moderate; confirm the current price Bigger banks weigh more and take longer to recharge at home, so do not buy more than you will use. For most boaters, a mid-size bank hits the sweet spot. WATER-RESISTANT 19. Water-Resistant Power Banks Some power banks are built rugged, with a water-resistant shell and rubber flaps over the ports. They are a nice touch for the boat, though a plain bank kept in a dry bag is just as safe and often cheaper. The rugged ones shine if you want to charge right out in the open. A rugged bank shrugs off splashes and knocks

12-VOLT**12. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

A plain bank in a dry bag is just as protected Keep the port covers closed when charging near water Dry the port flap before opening it to plug in Water-resistant is not the same as waterproof here either. Even a rugged bank should not be charging a phone while sitting in a puddle on the deck. 20. Charging From the Boat's 12-Volt Many boats have a 12-volt socket at the helm, the same kind as the old cigarette-lighter plug in a car. A small USB adapter in that socket lets you charge the phone straight from the boat's battery while you ride. On a mounted phone running maps all day, this keeps it topped up for free.

- 1 Find the 12-volt socket at the helm or dash
- 2 Plug in a USB adapter rated for your phone
- 3 Run the cable to your mounted phone, kept out of the splash
- 4 Unplug it when the engine is off so it does not drain the battery **TIP** My 12-volt power guide covers adding USB ports and fusing wired-in chargers safely. A permanent USB port at the helm is a tidy upgrade if you are on the water often. **CABLES 21.** Cables That Survive the Boat Charging cables lead a hard life on a boat — coiled, pinched, splashed, and tugged. A cheap cable frays and quits at the worst moment. A sturdy braided cable lasts far longer, and keeping a spare in the dry bag means a failed cable never ends your day's navigation. A braided cable holds up better than a thin plastic one Keep a spare in the dry bag, cheap insurance Dry the phone's port before plugging in Coil cables loosely so they do not kink and break inside

WATCH OUT

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

Never plug a charging cable into a wet charging port. It can corrode the port or trip the phone's moisture warning and refuse to charge. Dry it first. **SOLAR 22.** Solar for Longer Days Out For long days or overnight trips, a small folding solar panel can keep a power bank topped up from the sun. It is overkill for a few hours of fishing, but handy if you are far from a plug for a day or more. Clip it where it catches sun and let it trickle power into the bank. A small folding panel recharges a power bank in daylight Best for long or multi-day trips, not a short outing Charge the power bank, then charge the phone from the bank Angle the panel toward the sun for the fastest charge My portable power station and solar guides go deeper for camping and overnight use. For a day on the lake, a charged power bank is usually all you need. **STRETCH BATTERY 23.** Stretching the Battery A few simple settings make the charge last much longer. Turning down the screen brightness helps most. Low Power Mode, built into the phone, trims background activity with one tap. And if you have no signal anyway, airplane mode stops the phone from draining itself hunting for a tower that is not there.

- 1 Turn screen brightness down when you are in shade
- 2 Switch on Low Power Mode from the battery settings
- 3 Use airplane mode in dead zones to stop the signal search

- 4 Close map and music apps you are not actively using TIP In a true dead zone, a phone searching for signal drains fast. Airplane mode, flipped on until you need to call out, can double how long the battery lasts.

GPS PARTNER

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24. Your Phone as GPS and Fish-Finder Partner On the water your phone does a lot: it shows lake maps, marks your spots, and even pairs with some fish finders and trolling motors. All of that leans on the battery and on the screen staying readable. Protecting and powering the phone is what makes it dependable as a navigation tool, not just a camera. Lake map apps show depth and your position on the water Some fish finders and trolling motors pair to a phone app A mounted, charging phone is a steady little chartplotter All of it depends on a dry phone with charge to spare My lake navigation guide and my fish-finder guide cover the apps and electronics in detail. This guide is about keeping the phone that runs them alive and dry. SIGNAL 25. Signal and Dead Zones on the Water Cell signal on open water can be surprisingly good or surprisingly bad, depending on the lake and how far you are from shore. Many lake map apps let you download the map before you launch, so navigation still works with no bars at all. Knowing your dead zones ahead of time saves a frantic search for signal. Signal varies by lake and distance from the towers onshore Download your lake maps before launching so they work offline Bigger, remote reservoirs are more likely to have dead spots Tell someone your plan before you go where signal is thin TIP Download the map for lakes like West Branch or Berlin before you launch. Then the map and your position still work even where the phone shows no bars.

NO BARS

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26. When There Are No Bars A phone cannot call for help where there is no signal, and that is worth planning for on bigger, remote water. Newer phones can send an emergency text through a satellite with a clear view of the sky, and a dedicated satellite messenger does the same job more ruggedly. For most inland lake days, a charged phone and a float plan left with family are enough. A newer phone may send an emergency SOS by satellite with open sky A dedicated satellite messenger is sturdier for frequent off-grid use Always tell someone your launch spot and return time On big open water, a marine radio reaches other boaters My satellite messenger guide and my marine radio guide cover reaching help where there is no cell signal. For a quiet afternoon on a local lake, your phone and a float plan usually do the job. OVERBOARD 27. If It Goes Overboard — Act Fast If the phone goes in, speed matters. Get it out of the water quickly, turn it off, and do not try to charge it or press buttons while it is wet. Water inside a powered phone is what causes the real damage, so powering down and drying come first.

- 1 Scoop it out of the water as fast as you safely can
- 2 Turn it off right away — do not keep using it
- 3 Dry the outside and shake water gently from the ports
- 4 Do not plug it in to charge until it is fully dry inside
- 5 Leave it off in a dry, airy place for a day or two WATCH OUT The urge to turn it on and check if it works is exactly what fries a wet phone. Leave it off until it is truly dry, however hard the waiting is.

THE RICE MYTH

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28. The Rice Myth and What to Do Instead You have heard the trick of burying a wet phone in a bag of rice. It does very little — rice barely pulls moisture out and its dust can clog the ports. A better plan is to leave the phone off in a dry, warm, airy spot, or to use the little silica gel packets that come in shoeboxes and vitamin bottles. Rice does almost nothing and its dust clogs the ports. Leave the phone off in a dry, airy place instead. Silica gel packets pull moisture better than rice. Warmth and airflow, not heat, help it dry — never use an oven or hair dryer. The best fix is prevention: a sealed pouch means you never test the rice trick at all. If the worst happens, patience and airflow beat any kitchen remedy.

THE PORT 29. Drying the Charging Port Even a quick splash can leave water in the charging port, and a wet port can corrode or block charging. Many phones show a moisture warning and refuse to charge until the port dries. Give it time and gentle airflow rather than forcing a cable in. A moisture warning means the phone found water in the port. Do not force a cable in — that pushes water deeper. Tap the port gently downward to shake out droplets. Let it air-dry, or point a fan at it, before charging. TIP If the phone will not charge after a splash, the port is likely just wet. Set it aside for an hour or two and try again before you worry.

A SPARE PHONE**17. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech***30. A Spare 'Boat Phone'*

If you have an old phone in a drawer, it can make a fine dedicated boat phone. You download the lake maps, keep it in the pouch, and leave your good phone safe at home or in the truck. An old phone with no service still runs offline maps and still takes photos on the water. An old phone runs offline maps even with no service plan. It still takes photos and runs many apps over Wi-Fi at home. If it goes overboard, it is a far smaller loss. Keep it charged and loaded with maps before each trip. A retired phone without a plan can still send an emergency SOS over Wi-Fi calling or satellite on many models. It is a cheap, low-stakes way to have a map and a camera afloat. GUESTS 31. Guests, Grandkids, and Loose Phones Your own phone is handled, but guests climb aboard with phones in loose pockets, and that is where many go overboard. A spare pouch or two, and a simple rule that phones live in the dry bag unless in use, keeps everyone's device safe without you playing lifeguard all day. Keep a spare pouch or two for guests and grandkids. Make a habit: phones in the dry bag unless in use. Remind guests not to lean over the rail with a phone out. A shared power bank keeps everyone charged and happy. TIP Hand each guest a pouch as they board, the way you hand out life jackets. It takes ten seconds and saves a very bad moment later.

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

32. For Swimming and Wading If you wade to fish or swim off the boat, you want more than a splash-proof pouch — you want something rated to be fully submerged and to float. A floating case or a pouch tested for dunking lets you keep the phone on you in the water for a quick photo without fear. Choose a pouch or case rated for full submersion A floating design means it bobs up if you let go A neck or wrist tether keeps it on you while you swim Test it empty underwater before you trust it with the phone WATCH OUT Submersion is harder on a seal than a splash. If you wade and swim often, replace an aging pouch before its seal gives out and check it for wear each season. SCREEN AND GLARE 33. Screen Protectors and Glare Bright sun on the water makes a phone screen hard to read, and spray leaves spots. A matte screen protector cuts glare and resists fingerprints, which helps a lot when you are squinting at a map in the sun. Polarized sunglasses can make some screens look dark, so tip the phone or lift the glasses to read it. A matte protector cuts glare and hides fingerprints Turn brightness up briefly to read the map in full sun Polarized sunglasses can darken the screen at some angles Keep a cloth handy to wipe spray and spots off the front If the map looks black through your sunglasses, it is the polarization, not a broken screen. Tilt the phone or peek over the glasses and it comes right back.

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

34. Keeping Cords Tidy and Safe Loose charging cords on a boat are a trip hazard and they tangle with fishing gear. Routing them cleanly from the 12-volt socket to the mount keeps the deck safe and keeps a snagged cord from yanking the phone off its mount. A couple of clips or ties do the whole job. Route the charging cord along a rail, not across the deck Clip or tie it so it cannot snag a foot or a fishing line Leave a little slack so a tug does not pull the phone down Unplug and coil it loosely when you pack up TIP A snagged cord is a common way a mounted phone ends up on the deck. Keep the run short and secured, and keep the tether on as a backstop. STORING 35. Storing the Phone When Not in Use When you are not actively using the phone, it should go back to its safe home: the pouch, in the shade, in the dry bag, or on its mount. A phone set down loose on a seat or the gunwale is one wave away from the water. Make putting it away the habit, not the exception. Return it to the pouch and dry bag between uses Keep it in shade to spare the battery and the screen Never set it loose on a seat, cooler lid, or the rail On its mount is fine — loose on the deck is not Most phones that go overboard were set down 'just for a second.' A consistent home for the phone is the simplest protection of all.

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

36. Backing Up Photos After the Trip The photos of a great day on the water are worth protecting. Setting the phone to back up pictures automatically to the cloud or your computer means that even if the phone is lost or ruined on the next trip, the memories are safe. It happens in the background once you turn it on.

- 1** Turn on automatic photo backup in your phone's settings
- 2** Let it upload over Wi-Fi when you get home
- 3** Check once in a while that the backup is running
- 4** Keep a second copy on a computer for the photos you treasure WATCH OUT My family photo and backup guides walk through this step by step. A phone can be replaced; the only photos you truly lose are the ones that were never backed up. MEDICAL INFO 37. Medical Info on the Lock Screen Both iPhones and Android phones can show emergency contacts and key medical notes on the lock screen, without anyone needing your

passcode. On the water, where help may come from a stranger, that is a small setup that could matter a great deal. It takes a few minutes at the kitchen table. Set up the Medical ID or emergency info on your phone. Add an emergency contact and any key health notes. It shows on the lock screen without your passcode. Do the same on your spouse's and guests' phones if they are willing. This is one of those quiet features worth turning on once and forgetting. I am glad to set it up with you if the menus are not obvious.

A ROUTINE

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

38. A Simple Pre-Launch Routine A short habit at the ramp means the phone is ready before you ever leave the dock. Charge, pouch, lanyard, maps, dry bag — five quick checks and you are set. Do them in the same order each time and it becomes second nature.

- 1 Charge the phone and the power bank the night before
- 2 Seal the phone in its pouch and clip on the lanyard
- 3 Download or confirm the lake map works offline
- 4 Put the power bank and cables in the dry bag
- 5 Clip the dry bag to the boat so it cannot slide out TIP Tie this routine to launching the boat, the way you tie stowing the dish to raising the steps on an RV. A fixed habit is how nothing gets forgotten at the ramp. THE KIT 39. What Lives in the Dry Bag A simple, complete kit lives in one small dry bag and goes on every trip. When everything has a home and travels together, you are never hunting for a cable or wondering if the power bank is charged. Here is the short list that covers nearly every phone problem on the water. Waterproof floating pouch with a lanyard A charged power bank and a sturdy cable A spare cable and a small dry cloth Keys, wallet, and anything else that must stay dry A spare pouch for a guest Restock the bag at the end of each trip, not the start of the next. A dried-out cloth and a recharged power bank mean you are ready the moment you want to go.

WHAT IT COSTS

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

40. Cheap vs Fancy — What's Worth It You can spend a little or a lot here, and the honest truth is that the cheap items do most of the work. A pouch, a lanyard, and a power bank are the high-value basics. A rugged case, a water-resistant bank, and a permanent helm mount are nice upgrades for people on the water often, not must-haves. Worth it for everyone: pouch, floating lanyard, power bank Nice upgrade: a rugged case and a helm mount if you boat often Prices range from a few dollars to a modest sum; confirm current prices Spend on the basics first and add extras only if you want them WATCH OUT Do not let a salesperson talk you into the most expensive case on day one. Start with the cheap basics, use them for a season, and add more only where you felt a gap. COMMON WORRIES 41. Common Questions People Ask Me When folks ask me about protecting a phone on the water, the same questions come up. Here are the honest short answers so you can set yours up with confidence. 'Will the screen work in a pouch?' Yes, tap right through the clear plastic 'My phone is water-resistant — do I need a pouch?' Yes, because it still sinks 'What size power bank?' 10,000 mAh for most days, 20,000 for long ones 'Does rice save a wet phone?' Not really — airflow and patience work better If a question here is not covered, call or text and ask. A two-minute answer can save you a ruined phone or a wasted purchase. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your On-the-Water Phone Checklist Here is the short version to keep with your boating gear. Check these off and your phone will stay dry, charged, and in one piece from launch to landing. Phone sealed in a waterproof floating pouch Floating lanyard clipped on so a drop does not sink it

WHEN TO CALL**23. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Power bank charged and in a dry bag with a spare cable Lake map downloaded so it works with no signal A sturdy mount so the phone stays off the wet deck Phone kept in shade to save the battery and screen Emergency medical info set on the lock screen Someone onshore knows my plan and return time Tape this list inside your tackle box or tuck it in the dry bag. A quick glance before you launch keeps every trip worry-free. 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Most of this you can set up yourself at the kitchen table in an afternoon. But if you want help choosing the right pouch and power bank for your phone, setting up offline maps and emergency info, or getting a clean, charging mount installed at the helm, that is exactly what I am here for. I have spent more than thirty years making tech simple for people, and I will give you the honest answer on what you need and what you can skip. TIP I can sit down with you, set up your phone for the water, show you the few settings that matter, and make sure you leave the dock dry, charged, and ready. My first in-home visit is a flat ninety-nine dollars, and remote screen-share help is forty-nine — call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page with your boating gear. It is the short answer to keeping a phone dry and charged on the water. Seal the phone in a floating waterproof pouch every trip Clip on a floating lanyard so a dropped phone does not sink Carry a charged power bank and a spare cable in a dry bag Download the lake map so it works with no cell signal Keep the phone shaded — heat and glare drain the battery fastest Mount it so it stays off the wet deck and in your view

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

Dry the charging port before you ever plug in after a splash If it goes under, turn it off and let it dry — skip the rice Get help: call Bill at (330) 200-8042

HOW I CAN HELP**25. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

Your Visit — and My Promise In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included. Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo). My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated. Call or text (330) 200-8042 · Book a visit: billshometech.com/book · bill@billshometech.com This free guide is for general information only — not professional advice, and no substitute for your device's own manual. Any prices or outside products mentioned can change; please confirm current details before you buy. Please use your own good judgment and follow it at your own risk — for anything involving electricity, gas, water, or heights, stop and call a licensed professional. Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results. © 2026 Bill's Home Tech, LLC.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Which Phone Protection Fits You?

Match the gear to how you use the water.

Floating Pouch

Cheapest, fits any phone
Seals out splashes and
dunks
Floats so a drop stays
up

Rugged Case

Always-on protection
Fits one phone model
For folks on the water
often

Dry Bag Kit

Home for bank and cables
Keeps keys and wallet
dry
Clip it to the boat

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

Getting Your Phone Ready to Launch

Five quick steps before you leave the dock.

- 1 Charge the phone and power bank the night before
- 2 Seal the phone in its pouch and clip the lanyard
- 3 Download the lake map so it works offline
- 4 Pack the power bank and cables in the dry bag
- 5 Clip the dry bag to the boat before you launch

BEFORE YOU GO

A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill. I write these guides to make home tech a little less frustrating, and I do my best to keep every step accurate and up to date. Still, every home, device, and setup is a bit different, so I can't promise a guide will match yours exactly or fix your particular problem. These guides are for general information only — they're not professional, legal, or financial advice, and they don't replace your device's own manual or the manufacturer's instructions. Please go slow, use your own good judgment, and use everything here at your own risk. If a step involves electrical wiring, a gas appliance, a water heater, plumbing, or climbing a ladder — or if anything just doesn't feel safe — please stop and call a licensed professional (or give me a call at 330-200-8042). Bill's Home Tech and Bill Davis can't be responsible for any damage, data loss, or injury that results.



HOW I CAN HELP

Your Visit — and My Promise

In-home visit — \$99 flat for your first visit. No contracts and no surprise charges, and a 30-day follow-up is included.

Remote Support — \$49 for a screen-share session. I only connect with your permission, you watch the whole time, and you can end anytime. If I can't fix it over the screen-share, I refund the \$49 — and if it turns out you need me in person, that \$49 goes toward your visit. It's included free for Support Plan members (\$39/mo).

GOOD TO KNOW

My promise — If you're not 100% satisfied with your visit, I'll come back at no charge, or refund the full \$99. No questions, no awkwardness. That's how I'd want to be treated.

Call or text **(330) 200-8042** · Book a visit: **billshometech.com/book** · **bill@billshometech.com**

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