



An Extended Guide · No. 1875

Roomba After iRobot's Bankruptcy — What Owners Should Know

Calm, honest facts and simple
steps to protect your robot

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Your Roomba still works — here's the whole story

If you own a Roomba and you've heard the company behind it went through bankruptcy, you may be wondering whether your robot is about to stop working. The short, honest answer: not today. But there are a few sensible steps worth taking, and this guide walks you through them calmly.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping folks make sense of news like this without the hype. I'll give you the facts as they stand, tell you plainly what's solid and what's a company promise, and show you how to protect yourself.

A note before we start: everything here reflects the situation as of 2026. Company situations change, so treat this as a snapshot and check the current status for anything that affects a decision you're about to make.

★ Not sure what any of this means for your robot?

If the news has you worried about your own Roomba, call or text me at (330) 200-8042. I'll help you understand where things stand and take a few simple steps to keep it running — no sales pitch, just honest advice.

The whole story, on one page

If you remember only these things, you've got the heart of it.

- ❑ iRobot, the maker of Roomba, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on December 14, 2025.
- ❑ It emerged in January 2026 as a private company owned by Shenzhen Picea Robotics, its longtime Chinese manufacturer.
- ❑ A US-based arm, reported as 'iRobot Safe,' was set up with its own board and a US data officer to handle privacy concerns.
- ❑ The company says it's 'business as usual' — app, warranties, and support continue — but that is the company's own reassurance.
- ❑ Your Roomba keeps working today; nothing shuts off because of the bankruptcy itself.
- ❑ The smart move is simple self-protection: note your model, keep the manual, learn the buttons, and buy spare parts while they're easy.

✓ One rule to hold onto

Don't panic, and don't ignore it either. A robot that can run from its own buttons, with a spare filter in the drawer, is safe from almost anything a company shake-up can throw at it.

What actually happened

Let's lay out the facts plainly, in order, so you know exactly what's behind the headlines.

iRobot, the American company that has made Roomba vacuums for about 35 years, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on December 14, 2025. Chapter 11 is a form of reorganization — a company restructures its debts rather than simply closing its doors.

In January 2026, around the 23rd, iRobot emerged from that process as a private company. Its longtime Chinese contract manufacturer, Shenzhen Picea Robotics, took essentially all of the ownership. That ended iRobot's long run as an independent American company.

So the company did not vanish. It changed hands and changed shape. That's an important distinction — a reorganized company under new owners is a very different thing from a maker that shuts off the lights.

✓ Chapter 11 is not 'the end'

Folks hear 'bankruptcy' and picture padlocked doors. Chapter 11 is the kind designed to keep a business running while it reorganizes. In this case it led to new ownership, not a shutdown.

Who owns Roomba now

The new owner's name may be unfamiliar, but the relationship isn't new — and that matters.

Roomba is now owned by Shenzhen Picea Robotics, the company that had long been iRobot's contract manufacturer — the firm that actually built the robots. So the new owner already knew these products inside and out before it took the reins. This wasn't a stranger buying a brand it didn't understand.

That's a reason for cautious optimism rather than alarm. A manufacturer that has been building Roombas for years is well placed to keep making them, keep the parts coming, and keep the app running. Whether it does all that over the long haul is what we watch.

✓ Familiar hands, new nameplate

The company on the box is under new ownership, but the people who build the robots are much the same. That continuity is genuinely reassuring — it's the best kind of new owner a product can have.

What about your data and privacy?

A sale to an overseas owner naturally raises a question about where your data lives. The deal tried to address exactly that.

As part of the reorganization, a US-based subsidiary — reported as 'iRobot Safe' — was set up with an independent US board and a US-based Data Security Officer, specifically to handle data and privacy concerns. The intent was to keep decisions about owners' data under US oversight.

That's a thoughtful structure, and better than nothing. Still, it's worth remembering that structures can change and that your data lives under whatever privacy policy is current. If privacy is a real concern for you, our camera-and-privacy guide shows the settings worth checking.

! Keep an eye on the privacy terms

After an ownership change, it's wise to glance at the app's privacy settings now and then, in case they get reset or updated. Favor a Roomba model that offers more local control if keeping data at home matters to you.

'Business as usual' — and how to read that

The company has been clear about its message to owners. It's worth hearing it accurately, and reading it with clear eyes.

iRobot has said it's 'business as usual': the app keeps working, warranties will be honored, and product support continues. New products and accessories were expected to start arriving around spring 2026. On the face of it, that's good news for owners.

Here's the honest part. Those are the company's own reassurances, offered at a moment when it very much wants to keep customers calm. I'm not saying don't believe them — I'm saying don't rely on them alone. The smart owner takes the promise at face value and still keeps a safety net.

! A promise is not a guarantee

Every company under new ownership says things will carry on as before. Usually they do — for a while. The few simple steps in this guide cost you almost nothing and protect you whether the promise holds or not.

What it means for the app

For most Roomba owners, the app is where the worry lives — so let's address it directly.

As things stand, the app keeps working. You can still start a clean, set schedules, draw no-go zones, and see your map. Nothing about the bankruptcy switched the app off, and the new owner has every reason to keep it running.

The watchfulness is about the future, not the present. If an app ever changes hands and goes quiet — no updates, broken features — a robot that leans entirely on its app can lose some tricks. That's why the next pages focus on making sure your Roomba can run without needing the app at all.

✓ Keep the app updated — but watch it

Install app updates as they come; they often carry security fixes. At the same time, notice if an update changes your settings or removes a feature. Keeping the app current and keeping an eye on it are not at odds.

Parts, warranties, and repairs

A robot is only as good as the brushes, filters, and batteries you can still get for it. Here's where that stands.

The company says warranties will be honored and support continues, and wear parts — filters, side brushes, the main brush, and eventually a battery — are the ordinary consumables every robot needs. For now they remain available through the usual channels.

Because parts are the quiet thing that decides a robot's lifespan, this is where a little foresight pays off. If your Roomba is one you plan to keep for years, buying a spare filter and brush set now — while they're easy to find — is cheap insurance against a future supply hiccup.

★ Let me help you stock the right spares

Tell me your exact Roomba model and I'll help you find the correct filters, brushes, and battery, and lay in a spare or two. Getting the right part for the right model is half the battle. Call (330) 200-8042.

Make it run without the app

The single best protection against any app trouble is knowing how to run your Roomba straight from the robot itself.

Almost every Roomba has physical buttons — usually a 'Clean' button, and often spot or dock buttons too. Pressing Clean starts a cleaning run with no phone involved at all. If the app ever misbehaves, that button still does the main job the robot exists to do.

Spend ten minutes learning what each button does, and write it on a card you keep near the dock. A Roomba you can run by hand is a Roomba that keeps earning its keep no matter what happens to the app or the company behind it.

★ I'll teach you the buttons in plain English

On a visit I'll show you exactly what each button on your Roomba does and write up a simple card so you never need the phone for an everyday clean. It's a small thing that buys big peace of mind. Call (330) 200-8042.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

How much this news should change what you do depends on how you use your Roomba. See which of these sounds more like you.

The 'it just cleans the floors' owner

If you press Clean, let it run, and rarely open the app, the bankruptcy barely touches you — and a couple of steps lock in that simplicity.

- Learn the Clean button so you never depend on the app.
- Write down your exact model and keep the manual with it.
- Buy a spare filter and brush set while they're easy to get.
- Carry on as normal — your robot works the same today.

The 'I use maps, zones, and schedules' owner

If you lean on the app's maps, no-go zones, and schedules, you have a bit more to protect — but it's all straightforward.

- Save a note or screenshot of your map and settings if you can.
- Keep the app updated, but watch for changes after updates.
- Favor local control where your model offers it.
- Still learn the buttons, so a run never needs the phone.

★ **Whichever you are, the steps are simple**

Tell me how you use your Roomba and I'll tailor the protection to match — no more fuss than you need, and no worry you don't. Call (330) 200-8042.

Write down your exact model — today

It sounds almost too simple, but knowing precisely which Roomba you own is the foundation of everything else.

The exact model name and number tell you which filters and brushes fit, which battery it takes, and what the warranty covers. You'll usually find it on a label underneath the robot, and often in the app's device settings. Write it on a card and keep it with the manual.

Why the urgency? Because if support ever gets harder to reach, or a listing disappears, you'll want this information already in hand rather than having to dig for it under a robot on your kitchen floor. Two minutes now saves a headache later.

✓ A photo counts as a backup

Snap a clear photo of the label on the bottom of your Roomba and the model line in the app. Keep it somewhere you'll find it — a photo you can't lose is better than a card you might.

Save your map and settings if you can

If you've spent time getting your Roomba's map and no-go zones just right, it's worth preserving that work.

Re-mapping a home and redrawing every no-go zone is the tedious part of setup. If your model lets you export or back up the map, do it. If it doesn't, the next best thing is a simple record: screenshots of the map and a written list of your zones, schedules, and settings.

That record means that if the app ever resets, or you have to set the robot up fresh, you can rebuild your preferences quickly instead of from memory. It's the same good habit as keeping a note of your Wi-Fi password.

★ I'll help you back up your setup

Saving a map, taking the right screenshots, and writing down your zones and schedules is a quick job I'm glad to do with you — so your careful setup survives any app hiccup. Call (330) 200-8042.

Favor local control where you can

The more a robot can do on its own, without phoning home to a distant server, the less any company change can affect it.

Some robots offer 'local' control — running from the buttons, a local app, or a home smart speaker without leaning on the maker's cloud. A Roomba you can start and schedule without the internet is a Roomba that doesn't care who owns the company this year.

If your current model is heavily cloud-dependent, you can't change that — but you can lean on the buttons for everyday cleaning. And if you ever replace it, you can make local control a shopping priority. Our choosing guide and the 'when a maker shuts down' guide both touch on this.

✓ Local is the quiet hero

Flashy cloud features get the attention, but local control is what keeps a robot useful for the long haul. It's worth asking about on your next purchase, whatever the brand.

The bigger lesson for any connected gadget

Roomba's story isn't unique. It's a plain example of something true of every internet-connected device you own.

Any gadget that leans on an app and a company's servers is, in part, renting a service from that company. Companies get sold, change direction, or close. That's not a reason to avoid connected devices — it's a reason to favor ones that still work when the service wobbles.

Our 'when a maker shuts down' guide covers this in full — how to spot an at-risk product, what to do when an app goes dark, and how to keep gear useful afterward. Roomba is simply the timely case study for a habit worth having with everything smart in your home.

✓ Buy for the buttons, not just the app

When you choose any smart device, ask what it can do with no internet and no app. The more it can do on its own, the safer your money is from the ups and downs of the company that made it.

An honest sense of proportion

Let me be straight with you about how worried to be — neither more nor less than the facts warrant.

Today, your Roomba works exactly as it did before the news. The company reorganized and is now run by the folks who already built the robots. The app is on, warranties stand, and parts are available. If you did nothing at all, you'd most likely be fine for a good while yet.

The reason to take a few steps anyway is that these promises are the company's own, and ownership changes can, over time, change apps, cloud services, and parts. A little self-protection now means you're covered either way — and it costs you an afternoon, not a fortune.

✓ Prepared, not panicked

The goal isn't to fear your Roomba — it's to make it independent enough that no corporate news can take it away from you. Do the simple steps once and you can stop thinking about it.

Your self-protection checklist

Run through this once and your Roomba is about as future-proof as a robot can be.

- ☐ I've written down my exact Roomba model and kept the manual with it.
- ☐ I know how to start a clean using the buttons, with no phone.
- ☐ The app is updated, and I watch for changes after updates.
- ☐ I've saved or recorded my map, no-go zones, and schedules.
- ☐ I've bought a spare filter and brush set while they're easy to get.
- ☐ I use local control, or the buttons, for everyday cleaning.
- ☐ I've glanced at the app's privacy settings after the ownership change.
- ☐ I know these facts are as of 2026 and I'll check current status.

✓ Keep this with the manual

Tuck a copy of this checklist in with your Roomba's manual and model card. If the news ever changes again, you'll have your whole safety net in one place.

Common mistakes folks make with this news

A few understandable overreactions — and underreactions — cause most of the trouble. Here's how to sidestep them.

- **Panic-tossing a working robot** — your Roomba cleans the same today; there's no need to throw out a good machine.
- **Rushing to buy a replacement** — on fear alone, before you know whether anything has actually broken for you.
- **Ignoring it entirely** — and skipping the five-minute steps that would protect you if things do change later.
- **Never learning the buttons** — leaving yourself helpless if the app ever has a bad day.
- **Not stocking spares** — then scrambling for a filter or brush if a listing ever disappears.

! Don't let a headline rush a purchase

Fear is a poor reason to spend money. If you're tempted to replace a working Roomba because of the news, sleep on it — and let me give you an honest read on whether you actually need to. Usually you don't.

If you're shopping for a robot now

Maybe this news has you weighing a new robot, Roomba or otherwise. Here's how to shop with ownership risk in mind.

The lesson applies to every brand, not just Roomba: favor a maker with a real app that gets updates, parts you can actually buy, and — the quiet hero — strong local control so the robot works even if the cloud goes quiet. A bargain from an unknown brand carries the same risk you're reading about here.

None of this means avoid Roomba. Under familiar ownership and with 'business as usual' support, a Roomba may still be a fine choice. It simply means shop with clear eyes, compare current options, and check the current status of any maker before you commit.

★ Weighing a new robot? Let's talk it through

I don't sell robots and earn no commission, so I'll give you my honest read on any model you're considering — Roomba or not — and what its ownership and support picture means for you. Call (330) 200-8042.

How to check where things stand now

Because this is a moving story, the most valuable skill is knowing how to get a current, trustworthy read rather than relying on a snapshot.

When something about the company matters to a decision — a warranty claim, a parts purchase, a repair — check the current situation before you act. Look at the maker's own support pages for the latest word, and weigh it against independent coverage rather than any single source.

Everything in this guide is accurate as of 2026, but a company under new ownership can change its plans. Treating these facts as a starting point, not the last word, is exactly the right instinct.

★ I'll help you find the current word

If you're not sure how to check the latest on Roomba support, parts, or warranties, that's a quick thing I can do with you — finding the reliable sources and reading them plainly. Call (330) 200-8042.

Questions worth asking right now

Whether you're talking to support, a salesperson, or to me, these questions cut through the noise.

Q: Does my Roomba still work normally today?

Yes. The bankruptcy and sale did not switch anything off. The app works, the buttons work, and the robot cleans the same as before.

Q: Will my warranty still be honored?

The company says yes. As with any such promise, keep your receipt and model details handy, and check the current support terms if you ever need to make a claim.

Q: Can I still get parts for it?

For now, yes — filters, brushes, and batteries remain available. Buying a spare set while they're easy to get is cheap insurance for a robot you plan to keep.

Q: Should I replace it because of the news?

Usually not. A working Roomba with buttons you know how to use and a spare filter in the drawer is well protected. Replace it when it wears out, not because of a headline.

✓ There's no silly question

If any of this feels confusing, that's not on you — corporate news is deliberately hard to follow. Ask the plain questions, and anyone worth your trust will give you plain answers.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most from Roomba owners since the news broke, answered plainly — and accurate as of 2026.

Q: Is my Roomba going to stop working?

Not because of the bankruptcy. iRobot reorganized and is now owned by its longtime manufacturer; the app, warranties, and support continue. Your robot cleans the same today as it did before.

Q: Who owns Roomba now?

Shenzhen Picea Robotics, iRobot's longtime Chinese contract manufacturer, took essentially all the ownership when iRobot emerged from Chapter 11 in January 2026. The folks who built the robots now own the brand.

Q: Is my data safe with a foreign owner?

A US-based arm, reported as 'iRobot Safe,' was set up with an independent US board and a data officer to handle privacy. It's a thoughtful structure — still, check your app's privacy settings now and then, as our privacy guide suggests.

Q: What's the smartest thing I can do right now?

Make your Roomba independent of the company: note the exact model, keep the manual, learn the Clean button, save your map and settings, and buy a spare filter and brush while they're easy. Then you're covered either way.

★ Still have questions? That's what I'm here for

Corporate news is unsettling, and you deserve a straight answer about your own robot. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042 and I'll help you sort the facts from the worry and take a few simple steps to protect your Roomba.

You don't have to do this alone

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

I hope this guide made your Roomba after iRobot's ownership change feel a little less daunting and a lot more doable. Keep it in a drawer with your other home papers, come back to a page whenever you need it, and don't worry about memorizing anything.

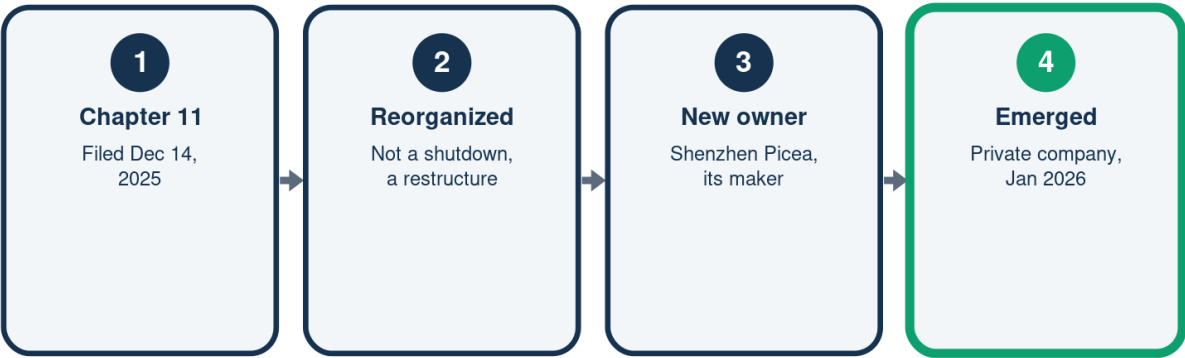
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. I'll help you choose the right machine, get it set up and mapped, connect it to your Wi-Fi and your phone, and show you how to run it. A first visit is a flat \$99, and for the parts that don't need me on-site — app settings, schedules, a quick question — I can often help right on your screen for \$49. Every visit comes with a 30-day, come-back-free guarantee. For anything that calls for a ladder, wiring, or digging, I'll help you line up a trustworthy local pro rather than risk it.

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What Happened to iRobot

The Roomba maker's story, in order (as of 2026)



Changed hands and shape -- it did not vanish.

What It Means Now

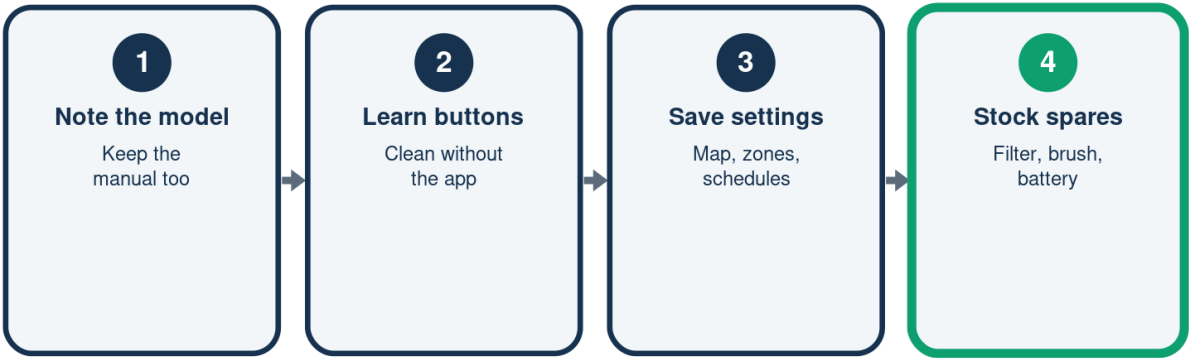
The company's word, read with clear eyes

	For you	Where it stands
The app	Still works,	keep it updated
Warranties	Honored, per	the company
Parts	Available now,	stock spares
Your data	US 'iRobot Safe'	arm set up
Your robot	Cleans the same	today

These are the company's reassurances -- keep a safety net.

How to Protect Yourself

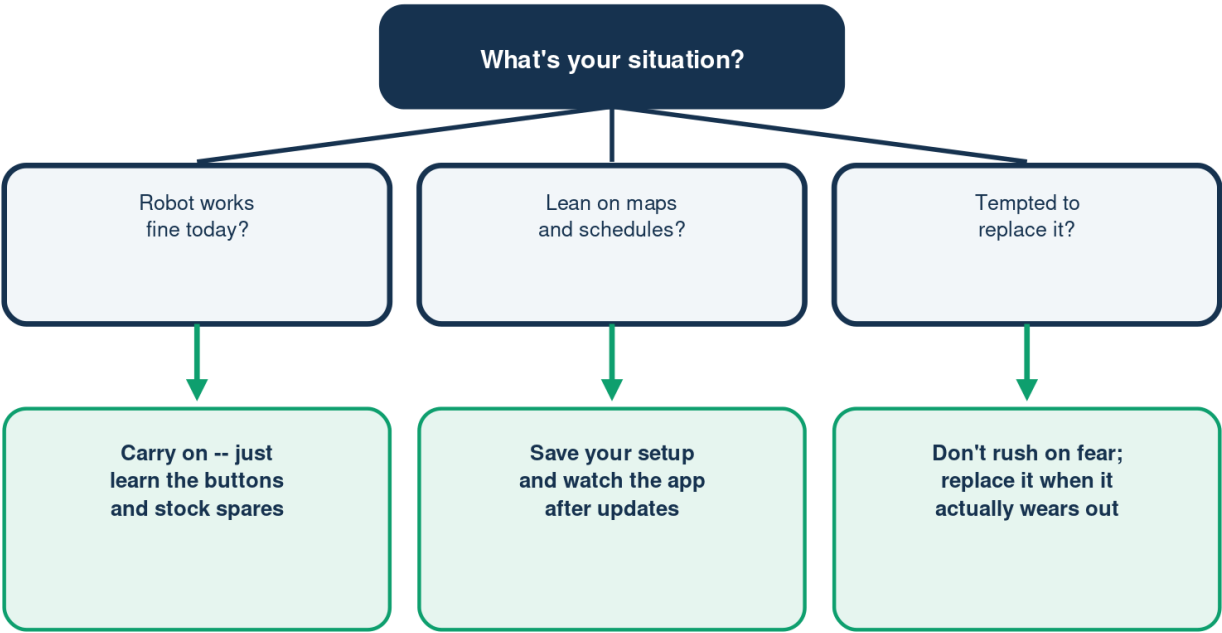
A few simple steps make your Roomba independent



A button-run robot with spares outlasts any shake-up.

Should I Worry About My Roomba?

Let your situation point the way



Facts are as of 2026 -- check the current status before big decisions.

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



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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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