



Starlink for the RV — Mini, Roam and When Cellular Is Enough

Internet Anywhere You Park Mini, Roam, and the honest trade-offs so you only pay for what you need An Extended Guide · No. 2044

————— An Extended Guide · No. 2044 —————

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

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1. The Whole Idea in One Glance If you remember only this page, you will still make a smart choice. Starlink is internet beamed down from satellites instead of run through a cable or a cell tower. You point a small dish at the open sky, it talks to satellites passing overhead, and you get Wi-Fi inside your RV. For travelers there is a plan called Roam and a backpack-sized dish called the Mini that make this practical to haul around. Starlink shines where there are no cell bars at all — remote, off-grid spots At a normal campground with decent cell signal, your phone's hotspot may be plenty and cheaper The Roam plan is the travel plan; you can pause it in the months you are not camping The Mini dish is small and sips less power, which suits an RV It needs a clear view of the sky — trees and hills block it GOOD TO KNOW You do not have to decide forever. Starlink lets you turn the Roam plan on for camping season and pause it when the rig is parked, so you only pay in the months you actually travel. WHAT IT IS 2. What Starlink Actually Is Regular home internet comes through a wire in the ground or a signal from a cell tower a few miles away. Starlink skips both. A company called SpaceX put thousands of small satellites in low orbit, and your dish connects to whichever ones are overhead. Because they are low and there are so many, the connection is fast enough for video and calls. The important part for you is simple: as long as the dish can see a good patch of open sky, you can have internet in a field, at a lake, or in a forest clearing where no cell tower reaches. That is the whole appeal. TIP Think of the dish as an antenna that has to look up at the sky, not out at a tower. Where you park it, and how much sky it can see, matters more than anything else.

WHY RVERS LIKE IT

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3. Why People Haul a Dish Around Before Starlink, getting online in the backcountry meant hoping for one bar of cell signal and watching a video spin forever. Full-time RVers who work from the road, and campers who just want to video-call the grandkids from a quiet lake, finally have a dependable option. Work calls and email from places that never had service Stream a movie at night without a campground's slow Wi-Fi Stay reachable by family even far from town A backup when a storm knocks out local service None of that means you must have one. Plenty of campers get by beautifully on a phone and a hotspot. The question is where you go and how connected you need to be. BE HONEST 4. Do You Actually Need It? The most money-saving page in this guide. This is the page I would want a friend to read before spending anything. Starlink is a real monthly bill plus the cost of the dish. If you mostly camp at parks with cell coverage, your phone may already do everything you need for free. You stay at developed campgrounds with cell signal: a hotspot is likely enough You boondock far from towers, or work online from remote spots: Starlink earns its keep You travel only a few weekends a year: pausing the plan keeps the cost down You simply want a reliable backup anywhere: that is a fair reason too WATCH OUT Do not buy Starlink to fix one campground with bad Wi-Fi. If most of your trips have cell signal, a hotspot or a signal booster is usually the cheaper, simpler answer. CELLULAR FIRST 5. When Your Phone's Signal Is Plenty Your cell phone can share its internet with a laptop or tablet. It is called a hotspot, and it is built into the phone. In a spot with a couple of bars, that is often all the internet a camper needs for maps, email, and a show or two.

TIP

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- 1 On an iPhone, open Settings, tap Personal Hotspot, turn it on
 - 2 On an Android, open Settings, search for Hotspot, turn it on
 - 3 Note the Wi-Fi name and password it shows you
 - 4 Connect your laptop or tablet to that name, like joining any Wi-Fi Check your phone plan for how much hotspot data it includes. Many plans give a generous amount, and for a weekend trip that may cover you without any extra gear at all.
- THE TWO DISHES** 6. Standard Dish or the Mini Starlink sells more than one dish. For RVers, two matter: the Standard dish, which is larger and a bit faster, and the Starlink Mini, which is about the size of a laptop and was made for travel. Both give you real internet; the Mini is just easier to live with in a rig. Standard dish: larger, slightly faster, more to store and more power to run Starlink Mini: backpack-sized, Wi-Fi built in, lower power draw, easy to stow Both work with the Roam travel plan The Mini is the popular pick for vans and smaller RVs If you are starting fresh and travel in anything smaller than a big motorhome, the Mini is usually the sensible choice. Prices move around, so always confirm the current price before you buy.
- MEET THE MINI** 7. The Little Dish Built for Travel The Starlink Mini is a flat panel you can set on a picnic table, clamp to a pole, or mount on the roof. It has the Wi-Fi router built right in, so there is no separate box to deal with. That is one less thing to find a shelf for. Small and light — easy to aim by hand and store in a cabinet Built-in Wi-Fi, so your phones and tablets connect straight to it Lower power use than the big dish, which helps when you are on batteries Set it out when you arrive, pack it when you leave

GOOD TO KNOW

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Because the Mini is portable, some folks carry it between the RV, a cabin, and a boat dock.

One dish, several uses — just move it to wherever has the clearest sky. THE PLANS 8. The Roam Plans in Plain English Starlink's travel service is called Roam. It is built for people who move around, as opposed to the Residential plan for a fixed home address. Roam comes in a few sizes based on how much data you get each month, from a smaller monthly allowance up to an Unlimited tier that costs the most. A smaller data plan: fine for email, maps, and light browsing A mid-size data plan: room for some streaming and video calls Unlimited: for heavy streaming or working online every day All of them let you pause when you are not traveling WATCH OUT The exact plan names, data amounts, and prices have changed more than once. Treat any number you read, including here, as a rough guide and confirm the current plans on Starlink's own site before you sign up. HOW MUCH DATA 9. How Much Data You Really Use Data is just a measure of how much internet you pull down. Checking email and reading the news barely uses any. Streaming movies in high definition uses a lot. Knowing roughly where you land helps you pick a plan without overpaying. Email, maps, weather, light browsing: very little data Music streaming and video calls: a moderate amount Watching TV and movies in HD: this is where data adds up fast Several people streaming at once: the heaviest use of all If you mostly stay in touch and watch a show now and then, a middle plan is usually plenty. Save the Unlimited plan for full-timers and remote workers who lean on it every day.

PAUSING

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10. Turning It Off for the Off-Season One of the nicest things about the Roam plan is that you are not locked into paying all year. When camping season ends, you can pause the service from your account and the monthly charge stops. When spring comes, you turn it back on.

- 1 Open the Starlink app or sign in to your account on a computer
- 2 Find your plan and look for the option to pause or manage service
- 3 Pause it when you park the rig for the winter

- 4** Resume it a day or two before your first trip of the season **TIP** If you camp only a handful of weekends a year, pausing between trips can cut your yearly cost dramatically. Just remember to turn it back on before you leave, or you will arrive to no internet. **WHAT IT COSTS** **11.** What to Expect to Pay There are two costs: the dish itself, which you buy once, and the monthly plan. The dish is a one-time purchase in the low hundreds of dollars, and the monthly Roam plan ranges from a moderate bill up to a larger one for Unlimited. I will not quote exact figures that go stale quickly. The dish: a one-time cost, confirm the current price The monthly plan: varies by how much data you choose Pausing in the off-season lowers what you pay over a year Watch for occasional sales on the Mini **WATCH OUT** Add it up honestly over a year before you commit. For occasional campers with cell service, the yearly total can be more than a hotspot would cost for the same trips.

CLEAR SKY

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12. Why It Needs a Clear View of the Sky This is the rule that decides whether Starlink works at your site. The dish has to see a wide patch of open sky to keep talking to satellites as they move across it. A roof over your head, a thick tree canopy, or a canyon wall will break the connection. Open field, lakeshore, desert, or clearing: excellent A campsite with a few scattered trees: often fine Deep forest or a narrow canyon: expect dropouts or no signal Right up against a tall building or cliff: likely blocked **GOOD TO KNOW** When you pick a campsite, glance up before you set the dish. The more sky you can see straight overhead and toward the north, the happier your connection will be. **TREES AND HILLS** **13.** When Trees and Hills Get in the Way Shady, wooded campsites are lovely to sit in and hard for a satellite dish. If your favorite spots are under tall pines, Starlink may stutter. The good news is that the dish is portable, so you can move it to a sunnier gap even if the RV stays in the shade.

- 1** Set the dish in the most open spot you can reach with the cable
- 2** A nearby clearing, a dock, or the edge of the trees often works
- 3** Run a longer cable if you need the dish farther from the rig
- 4** Check the app's obstruction view to see what is blocking it **TIP** A long enough cable turns a shady site into a usable one. Place the RV where you want to relax and place the dish where it can see the sky. **SETTING UP** **14.** Setting It Up at the Campsite Setting up the Mini the first time takes just a few minutes, and it gets faster every time after that. You

plug it in, set it where it can see the sky, and let it find the satellites on its own. There is nothing to aim by hand with the newer dishes.

- 5 Place the dish on a flat, open surface or its mount, sky visible

GOOD TO KNOW

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- 1 Plug it into power — the built-in Wi-Fi starts up
- 2 On your phone, open Wi-Fi settings and join the Starlink network
- 3 Open the Starlink app and follow the short setup
- 4 Give it a minute to connect and download its first update The very first setup may download an update and take a little longer. After that, it usually comes online within a minute of plugging in. THE APP 15. The Starlink App, Your Dashboard The free Starlink app is where you watch and manage everything. It shows whether you are connected, how fast, and whether anything is blocking the sky. It is also where you change your Wi-Fi name and password and where you pause or resume your plan. See your connection status and speed at a glance Check the obstruction view to spot trees or roof lines in the way Change your Wi-Fi network name and password Pause, resume, or change your plan TIP Set a Wi-Fi password you can remember and share with your traveling companions. Write it inside a cabinet door so a guest in the next site is not guessing. WHERE TO AIM 16. Pointing It the Right Way The newest dishes aim themselves, so you do not have to turn a crank or read a compass. Your only job is to give the dish a clear view and keep it level and steady. The satellites it uses tend to be toward the open sky, often across the northern half overhead in our part of the country. Set the dish level and on something that will not tip in the wind Keep the front face clear — no bag or branch leaning on it Favor the spot with the most open sky overhead Let the app confirm a clean view before you settle in

GOOD TO KNOW

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If you mount the dish on the roof, park with the open side of the sky in mind. A big tree on the north side of the site is the one most likely to cause trouble. **POWER DRAW 17.** The Power It Uses, and Your Batteries Starlink needs electricity the whole time it is on, and that matters when you are off the grid running on batteries. The Mini uses less than the big dish, but it is still a steady draw. If you only have internet when you are plugged in at a campground, power is a non-issue. Off-grid, you need to plan for it. Plugged in at a campground: no power worry at all On batteries: the dish adds a real, steady draw all day The Mini uses noticeably less power than the Standard dish Turn it off at night or when you are not using it to save power **TIP** If you boondock, treat Starlink like another appliance in your power budget. Turning it off overnight can save a surprising amount of battery for the morning coffee maker. **ON SOLAR 18.** Running Starlink on Solar Many off-grid RVers run Starlink from a portable power station or a solar setup. It works well as long as your batteries are big enough and your panels can keep up with the dish's steady draw plus everything else you run. If you already have a solar system, adding the dish is mostly a matter of having enough capacity. A large power station can run the Mini for hours; confirm the watt-hours you have Solar panels recharge the batteries during the day Budget for the dish plus your fridge, lights, and chargers Turn the dish off when you do not need it to stretch your power **GOOD TO KNOW** My RV solar and power station guides go deeper on sizing. The short version: Starlink is a happy guest on a solar system that was sized with a little room to spare.

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

19. Mounting It on the RV You can leave the dish portable, setting it on the ground each stop, or mount it permanently on the roof. A ground setup is flexible and lets you chase the sky. A roof mount is tidy and always ready but puts the dish wherever the RV happens to sit, trees and all. Ground or table: flexible, can move to clear sky, more to set up Roof mount: always ready, no cable across the campsite, but fixed location A pole mount clamped to a ladder is a popular middle ground Whatever you choose, make sure it will not blow over or slide off TIP If your favorite sites have trees, keep the dish portable. A permanent roof mount is best for people who camp in the open. IN MOTION 20. Using It While You Drive, and the Catch Some people want internet while the RV is rolling down the road. Starlink can do in-motion use, but it takes the right hardware and mount, and the plan and dish have to support it. For most campers, that is more than they need — you set up when you arrive and pack up when you leave. In-motion use needs a properly rated dish and mount It is mostly for full-timers or big motorhomes with a passenger using the internet For weekend campers, stationary use at each stop is simpler and cheaper The driver should never be fiddling with any of this, moving or not WATCH OUT If a salesperson pushes in-motion gear, ask yourself whether anyone will really be streaming while you drive. Most of us just want internet once we park.

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

21. How Fast It Really Is Starlink is genuinely fast for a satellite service — fast enough to stream, make video calls, and work normally. It is not always as fast as a good home cable connection, and it can vary with how busy the area is and how clear your sky is. For nearly everything an RVer does, it is more than quick enough. Plenty fast for streaming, video calls, email, and browsing Speed varies with your view of the sky and how crowded the area is Busy, popular areas can be slower at peak evening hours A clear, open site gives you the best speed GOOD TO KNOW If your connection feels slow, check the obstruction view first. A branch clipping the edge of the sky view is the most common cause of a sluggish evening. STREAMING 22. Streaming TV and Movies on It Starlink handles streaming well. You can watch your usual services on a tablet, a laptop, or a streaming stick plugged into the RV's TV, just like at home. The only thing to watch is your data if you are on a limited plan, because high-definition video uses the most of anything. Plug a Roku or Fire TV stick into the RV television and sign in Watch on a tablet or laptop over the dish's Wi-Fi Lower the video quality a notch to stretch a limited data plan Download shows at home or on Wi-Fi to watch later without using data TIP My RV TV and streaming guide covers the streaming sticks and antennas in detail. Starlink is simply the internet that feeds them.

VIDEO CALLS**14. For electrical, gas, water, or ladder work, please call a licensed professional. — Bill's Home Tech**

23. Video Calls With the Grandkids For a lot of people this is the whole point. Starlink is steady enough for a clear video call from a lake or a forest, so you can show the family where you are parked and see their faces. A short pause now and then can happen, but it is far better than one bar of cell signal.

- 1 Connect your phone or tablet to the Starlink Wi-Fi
- 2 Open FaceTime, Zoom, WhatsApp, or your usual call app
- 3 Sit where the dish has a clear view for the steadiest call
- 4 Prop the tablet up so your hands are free to wave GOOD TO KNOW If a call stutters, it is usually the sky view, not the people on the other end. Move to a more open spot and it will smooth out. WORKING 24. Working From the Road If you work remotely, Starlink is

what makes RV life possible far from town. It is reliable enough for email, video meetings, and most online work. The smart move is a backup for the days the sky is blocked or a satellite area is busy, so a dropped call does not become a dropped paycheck. Steady enough for video meetings and everyday online work Keep a cell hotspot as a backup for the rare bad moment Pick sites with open sky on workdays, shady ones on days off Let coworkers know you travel, so a brief hiccup is no surprise WATCH OUT Many full-timers run Starlink and a cell hotspot together, switching to whichever is stronger. It is the closest thing to never missing a meeting.

OBSTRUCTIONS

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25. Reading the Obstruction Map The Starlink app has a view that shows you exactly what is blocking the dish's sky — it paints the trees and roof lines in red. It is the single most useful tool for fixing a flaky connection, because it turns a vague 'it keeps cutting out' into 'that pine on the left is the problem.'

- 1 Open the app and find the obstructions or vision view
 - 2 Let it map the sky above the dish for a minute
 - 3 Look for red areas — those are things blocking satellites
 - 4 Move the dish until the red shrinks or disappears
- GOOD TO KNOW** Even a thin branch can cause brief dropouts when a satellite passes behind it. The cleaner the map, the steadier your internet.
- SLOWDOWNS** 26. Why It Sometimes Slows Down If Starlink feels slower some evenings, there are a few usual reasons, and none of them mean the dish is broken. A blocked sky is the most common. A very busy, popular camping area sharing the satellites is another. And an older or lower-tier plan can be slowed when the network is crowded. A partly blocked sky — check the obstruction view first A crowded, popular area at peak evening hours Heavy rain or snow passing overhead, usually brief Several devices all streaming at once in the rig
- TIP** Before you assume something is wrong, pause the video, check the obstruction map, and give it a minute. Most slowdowns pass on their own.

WEATHER

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27. Rain, Snow and Heat The dish is built to live outdoors in weather. Heavy rain or a snow squall can briefly slow the signal as it passes, but it bounces back. The dish can even warm itself to melt snow. Your main jobs are to keep it from blowing over and to clear a heavy snow pileup if it does not melt on its own. Rain and light snow: a brief slowdown, then normal Heavy snow: the dish can warm itself, but brush off a big pile Wind: secure the dish or mount so it cannot tip Heat: give it airflow; do not bury it in a hot, closed compartment WATCH OUT The biggest weather risk is not the signal — it is a gust knocking a ground-set dish over onto the pavement. Weight it down or clamp it. TWO INTERNETS 28. Starlink Plus a Hotspot Together You do not have to choose only one kind of internet. Many RVers keep both Starlink and a cell hotspot and lean on whichever is stronger at each stop. In a town with great cell service, the hotspot is cheap and fast. Out in the sticks, Starlink takes over. Together they cover almost anywhere. Cell hotspot: cheaper and great where there is signal Starlink: your lifeline where there are no bars A travel router can combine both into one network Use the hotspot in town, Starlink in the wild GOOD TO KNOW My campground Wi-Fi guide covers hotspots and boosters in plain English. Pairing one with Starlink is the setup most happy full-timers end up with.

ROUTER

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29. Adding Your Own Router The Mini has Wi-Fi built in, which is enough for most people. If you want stronger Wi-Fi throughout a big rig, or you want to combine Starlink and a hotspot into one network, you can add a travel router. This is a nicety, not a need — start simple and add it only if the built-in Wi-Fi leaves a dead corner. The built-in Wi-Fi covers a small-to-medium rig fine A travel router can extend coverage to a big motorhome Some routers juggle Starlink and cellular automatically Add this only if you actually have a weak-signal corner WATCH OUT Do not buy extra gear until you have lived with the basic setup for a trip. You may find the built-in Wi-Fi is all you ever needed. SECURITY 30.

Keeping Your Connection Private Your Starlink Wi-Fi is your own private network, which is already safer than joining a shared campground Wi-Fi. Still, a few simple habits keep it that way: a strong Wi-Fi password, not sharing it with strangers, and the same careful habits online you would use at home. Set a strong Wi-Fi password, not the factory default Share it only with your own traveling companions Do your banking on your own network, never a campground's open Wi-Fi Keep your phone and laptop updated, same as at home GOOD TO KNOW The best thing about having your own dish is that you stop needing sketchy public Wi-Fi at all. That alone makes your online life safer on the road.

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

31. Buying It Without Overbuying Buy the dish from Starlink directly or a trusted seller, and start with the plan that matches how you really travel, not the biggest one. You can always move up a plan later in a couple of taps. It is much harder to feel good about a big monthly bill for data you never touch. The Mini suits most RVers; the big dish is for large rigs in the open Start on a middle data plan and move up only if you run short Confirm the current dish price and plan prices before you order Skip in-motion extras unless you truly need internet while driving TIP Match the plan to your trips, not to your fears. You can upgrade in the app any time you find yourself running out. USED GEAR 32. The Trouble With Used Dishes A used Starlink dish can look like a bargain, but there are catches. The dish is tied to an account, and a used one may still be linked to the seller or may not activate on a current plan. If you buy new from Starlink, activation is clean and the warranty is yours. A used dish may be locked to someone else's account It may not qualify for current plans or warranty Savings can vanish if it will not activate When in doubt, buy new and keep the paperwork WATCH OUT If you do consider a used dish, confirm it has been fully removed from the seller's account before money changes hands. Otherwise you may own a paperweight. ACCOUNT 33. Setting Up Your Account and Billing Everything runs through your Starlink account: your plan, your billing, pausing, and support. Set it up with an email and password you will remember, and keep the login somewhere safe. When you pause and resume each season, this is where you do it.

- 1 Create your account with an email and a strong password

WATCH OUT

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- 1 Add your payment method for the monthly plan
- 2 Register your dish to the account during setup
- 3 Write your login in your password keeper or a safe notebook Use the same password keeper you use at home. If you do not have one, my family password guide shows how to set one up so you never lose a login again. COMMON WORRIES 34. The Questions People Ask Me Most When I sit down with folks thinking about Starlink, the same worries come up. Here are the honest answers to the ones I hear the most, so you can decide with clear eyes. 'Is it hard to set up?' No — the newer dishes aim themselves in minutes 'Will it work under trees?' Often not well; it needs open sky 'Can I pause it?' Yes, and that saves money in the off-season 'Is it worth it?' Only if you camp where there is no cell signal GOOD TO KNOW There is no shame in deciding you do not need it. For a lot of campers, the honest answer is a good hotspot, and that is a win for your wallet. TROUBLESHOOTING 35. When It Won't Connect If the dish will not come online, the fix is usually simple. Nearly every connection problem comes down to power, a blocked sky, or a cable that is not seated. Work through them in order before you call anyone.
- 4 Confirm the dish has power and the light or app shows it is on
- 5 Check the obstruction view for trees or a roof blocking the sky
- 6 Reseat the cable at both ends until it clicks
- 7 Restart the dish from the app or by unplugging for a minute
- 8 Give it a few minutes to find satellites and update TIP Nine times out of ten it is the sky view or a loose cable. Move to open sky, push the cable in firmly, and it comes back.

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

36. Caring for the Cable and Connectors The cable between the dish and the router is the part most likely to give trouble over time, simply because it gets coiled, stepped on, and pinched in doors. Treat it gently and it will last for years. A damaged cable causes exactly the kind of random dropouts that drive people crazy. Coil it loosely for storage, never in tight kinks Do not pinch it in a slide-out or a door Keep the connectors clean and dry before plugging in Run it where no one will trip or drive over it **WATCH OUT** If you get unexplained dropouts, inspect the cable and both connectors before blaming the dish. A nicked cable is a common and easy-to-miss culprit. **STORING** 37. Storing the Dish Safely When a trip ends, store the dish clean and dry, out of the way of anything heavy that could crack it. The Mini stows easily in a cabinet. Coil the cable loosely and keep the connectors from getting bent. A little care here means it is ready to go next time with no surprises. Wipe it down and let it dry before you pack it Store it flat where nothing heavy can press on it Coil the cable loosely and protect the connectors Keep it out of a compartment that bakes in summer heat **TIP** Give the dish its own padded spot or bag. Rattling around loose in a bin is how corners get chipped and cables get crushed.

WINTER

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

38. Starlink in a Stored RV Over Winter If the RV is parked for an Ohio winter, you have two sensible choices. Pause the plan and bring the dish and router inside where it is dry and above freezing. Or, if you want to keep an eye on the rig with cameras, leave a powered, sheltered setup running and keep the plan active. Most people pause and bring it in. Pause the Roam plan so you are not paying all winter Bring the Mini and any router indoors, dry and not frozen If you run winter cameras, leave it powered and sheltered, plan active Reconnect and resume a day before your first spring trip GOOD TO KNOW My winterizing guide covers batteries, cameras, and electronics for the whole rig. Starlink is one piece of putting the RV to bed for the season. BOONDOCKING 39. The Real Payoff: Off the Grid Boondocking means camping with no hookups — no power, no water, no Wi-Fi — far from a town. This is exactly where Starlink earns every dollar. A quiet spot by a river with full internet used to be impossible. Now you can sit in the middle of nowhere and still video-call home. Internet where there is no cell tower for miles Pair it with solar and a power station for days off-grid Pick a clearing with open sky for the dish This is the one scenario where Starlink has no real substitute TIP If boondocking in remote country is your dream, Starlink plus solar is the combination that makes it comfortable. That is the use it was made for.

CAMPGROUNDS

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

40. At a Normal Campground With Wi-Fi At a developed campground, you often have a choice: the park's Wi-Fi, your cell hotspot, or your own Starlink. Park Wi-Fi is usually slow and shared by everyone. Your own connection, whether hotspot or dish, is almost always better. If the site has cell signal, you may not even need to set up the dish. Campground Wi-Fi is usually slow and crowded — a last resort Your cell hotspot is often faster and more private Set up Starlink if the cell signal is weak or you want the speed No need to unpack the dish if your hotspot is doing fine GOOD TO KNOW There is no prize for using the dish everywhere. At a park with good cell service, the easy hotspot may be the smarter choice that day. A ROUTINE 41. A Simple Routine at Each Stop Like anything, Starlink gets easy once you have a little rhythm for it. A short routine at each new site means you are online in minutes without any fuss, and you never leave the dish behind.

- 1 When you arrive, glance up and find the most open patch of sky
- 2 Set or deploy the dish there and plug it in
- 3 Join the Starlink Wi-Fi and confirm the obstruction view is clean
- 4 When you leave, unplug, wipe down, and stow the dish before you roll WATCH OUT Make stowing the dish the last step before you pull out, tied to another habit like raising the steps. That is how you avoid driving off and leaving it on the picnic table. YOUR CHECKLIST 42. Your Starlink Setup Checklist Here is the short version to keep by the door of the rig. If you can check these off, you are in good shape for internet anywhere you roam. Chose the dish that fits my rig — Mini for most, Standard for big open setups

GOOD TO KNOW

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

Picked a Roam plan that matches how much I really use Know how to pause and resume for the off-season Have a clear-sky spot in mind at each site Set a strong Wi-Fi password I can share with my companions Have a cell hotspot as a backup for town stops Store the dish clean, dry, and padded between trips Tape this list inside a cabinet door. A thirty-second glance keeps every trip smooth and keeps the dish from being left behind.

WHEN TO CALL 43. When It Is Worth Calling Me Most people can set up a Mini themselves in an afternoon. But if you are not sure whether you even need Starlink, if you want help pairing it with solar or a hotspot, or if you would simply rather have someone sit beside you and get it all working before your trip, that is exactly what I am here for. I will give you the honest answer, even when the honest answer is that a hotspot would serve you better and cost less. TIP I can help you compare Starlink against your current phone plan, set up the dish and Wi-Fi, and show you how to pause it each season — so you leave on your trip connected and not overpaying. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042. CHEAT SHEET Everyday Cheat Sheet Keep this page handy. It is the short answer to the questions RVers ask most about Starlink. Starlink is for places with no cell signal; at parks with bars, a hotspot may be plenty Get the Mini for most rigs; the Standard dish is for big setups in the open Pick a Roam data plan that matches your real use, and move up only if you run short Pause the plan in the off-season to stop paying when you are not traveling It needs a clear view of the sky — move the dish to a clearing if your site is wooded Off-grid, budget for its steady power draw and turn it off overnight Keep a cell hotspot as a backup and set a strong Wi-Fi password

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

Store it clean, dry, and padded; bring it indoors for an Ohio winter 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). 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.

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

Do You Need Starlink, or Is Cellular Enough?

Match the choice to where you actually camp.

Phone Hotspot

Camp where there are bars
Cheapest, already in your phone
Great for parks and towns

Booster or Hotspot

Signal is weak but present
Amplifies an existing signal
Mixed results, worth a try

Starlink

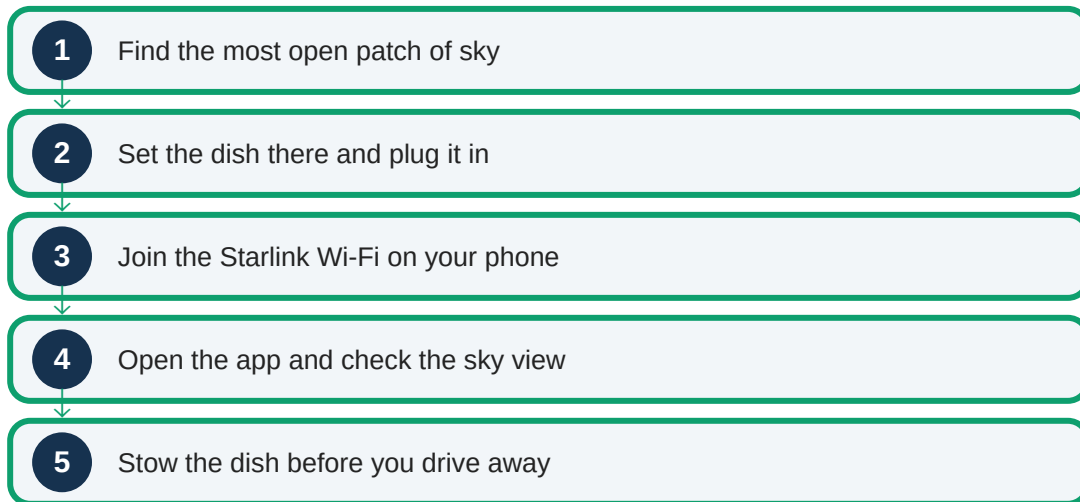
No cell signal at all
Remote, off-grid spots
Needs clear open sky

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

From Box to Online at Camp

A few minutes the first time, faster after that.



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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