BILL'S HOME TECH

Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

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Your Tech Checklist Before You Hand Back the Keys

Everything to Reset, Return & Take With You Protect your deposit and your privacy — leave nothing of yours, take nothing of theirs

Tech Made Simple. Service Made Personal.

Bill Davis — Bill's Home Tech

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

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THE 60-SECOND VERSION

1 The Whole Plan on One Page

If you read only one page, read this. Here is the whole idea as a short checklist.

Moving out of a rental has a quiet tech layer that is easy to forget in the rush of boxes. The goal is simple: take everything of yours, leave nothing of yours behind, undo any marks you made, and give back anything that was never yours to keep. Done right, it protects your deposit, your privacy, and the next tenant all at once.

1. Sign out of and factory-reset any smart device, and remove it from your account.
2. Take down adhesive mounts slowly, and patch small holes with a little spackle.
3. Reinstall the original lock and any hardware you replaced, and keep nothing of theirs.
4. Erase your Wi-Fi and accounts from any TV or device you are leaving.
5. Return leased internet gear and cancel building services, keeping proof.
6. Remove your access from the building's app before the keys change hands.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> None of this is urgent or hard. Start a week or two before move-out and do one piece at a time, and the tech side of leaving becomes just another calm item on the list.

The rest of this guide slows each step down, so nothing gets missed and nothing gets left plugged in, logged in, or stuck to a wall. Take it one page at a time.

WHY IT MATTERS

2 Why the Tech Checklist Matters

When you hand back the keys, you are closing a small chapter of your digital life as much as your physical one. Skip the tech steps and the costs show up later: a deposit docked for holes or a device left behind, a leased modem you are still billed for, or — most unsettling — a camera or doorbell still signed into your account, watching a home that is no longer yours.

There is also the next tenant to think of. A smart device left tied to your account can lock them out or, worse, leave your old logins exposed. A clean handover protects

your privacy and theirs, and it is simply the decent thing to do.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Most of the trouble people run into at move-out is not damage — it is forgetting. A device still on your account, a mount still on the wall, a service still billing. A checklist cures forgetting.

- Protects your deposit from avoidable charges.
- Protects your privacy by cutting every digital tie to the old home.
- Protects the next tenant from your leftover accounts and devices.
- Stops services and leases from billing you after you have gone.

START EARLY

3 Give Yourself a Week or Two

The single best thing you can do is not leave the tech for the last frantic hour. Several of these steps involve other people and their timelines — a provider scheduling an equipment return, a building office confirming you are off their system. Starting early turns a scramble into a series of small, unhurried tasks.

- Around two weeks out: call your internet provider about transferring or canceling.
- Around a week out: begin resetting devices you will not need until the very end.
- A few days out: take down mounts, patch holes, and reinstall original hardware.
- The last day: do the final device left behind, hand back any gear, and confirm app access is gone.

Keep one device — a phone — working until the end, since you will need it to run the apps that reset everything else. Everything else can be wound down on a sensible schedule leading up to the day.

> **TIP**
> Write the checklist on paper and tape it inside a cupboard. Crossing items off by hand is oddly satisfying, and it guarantees nothing is forgotten in the chaos of the last day.

MAKE A LIST

4 Taking Stock of What You Added

Before you undo anything, spend ten minutes listing every piece of technology you brought into the home or attached to it. It is surprising how much accumulates, and a device you forget is a device you leave behind or keep paying for. Walk the home room by room with a notepad.

- Smart devices: cameras, doorbells, locks, plugs, bulbs, speakers, thermostats.
- Networking gear: your router or mesh, and any the building or provider lent you.
- Mounted things: anything stuck, clamped, or screwed to a wall, door, or railing.
- Accounts and apps: the building's app, a managed-Wi-Fi login, any service tied to the unit.

As you list each item, note whether it is yours to take, theirs to get back, or something you altered that must be restored. That simple sorting tells you exactly what to do with each one, and nothing slips through.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> The things most often forgotten are the small ones — a smart plug behind the couch, a sensor stuck inside a cupboard, a bulb up in a fixture. The room-by-room walk catches them.

SIGN OUT FIRST

5 Signing Out Before You Reset

For every smart device, there is a right order: sign out and remove it from your account first, then factory-reset the hardware. Doing it in that order cleanly cuts the tie to your account. Resetting a device while it is still linked to your account can sometimes leave it half-stuck, awkward for both you and the next person.

1. Open the app that controls the device — Ring, Google Home, Kasa, and so on.
2. Find the specific device in the app's list.
3. Look for 'remove device,' 'delete,' or 'deregister' in its settings.
4. Confirm the removal, which unlinks it from your account.
5. Only then perform the physical factory reset on the device itself.

WATCH OUT

If you factory-reset a device but forget to remove it from your account, it can stay listed as yours and may block the next owner from adding it. Remove it in the app first.

This two-part habit — app first, hardware second — applies to nearly every smart device you own. Learn it once and the rest of the resets become routine.

CAMERAS & DOORBELLS

6 Clearing Cameras and Video Doorbells

Cameras and video doorbells deserve special care, because they are the devices most tied to your privacy and most likely to keep watching a home that is no longer yours. Clear them deliberately, and double-check that the live feed truly goes dark on your end.

1. In the camera's app, delete any stored video history you want to keep or clear.
2. Remove the camera or doorbell from your account under its device settings.
3. Factory-reset the device so it holds none of your Wi-Fi or account details.
4. Physically take the device down — it is yours to keep and reuse at the new place.
5. Confirm in the app that the device no longer appears and shows no live feed.

GOOD TO KNOW

Battery and stick-on cameras and doorbells are yours to take with you — that is the whole point of the renter-safe kind. Pack them up for the new home once they are reset.

If any recorded footage matters to you, save it off the device before you reset, because a factory reset wipes what is stored. Then you leave with your memories and the next tenant inherits a clean slate.

SMART LOCKS

7 Restoring the Original Lock

If you added a smart lock, move-out is when the renter-safe choice pays off. The renter kind mounts over the existing deadbolt on the inside, so the outside and your landlord's keys never changed. Taking it off is mostly a matter of reversing the install and making sure the original thumb-turn works as it did.

1. In the lock's app, delete any guest codes and remove the lock from your account.
2. Factory-reset the lock so it forgets your settings and codes.
3. Unscrew or peel the lock off the inside of the deadbolt.
4. If you swapped any part, reinstall the original hardware you kept.
5. Test the deadbolt by hand from inside and with the key from outside.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> If you ever replaced the whole deadbolt rather than using a retrofit, you must put the original lock back and rekey it to the landlord's key. Keep that old hardware from the day you installed.

The retrofit lock that sat over the thumb-turn is the easy case: lift it off and the door is exactly as you found it. That is why it is the renter's pick in the first place — no trace left behind.

PLUGS & BULBS

8 Smart Plugs, Bulbs, and Switches

Smart plugs and bulbs are the easiest to forget precisely because they look like ordinary fixtures. A smart bulb up in a ceiling fixture or a plug tucked behind furniture blends in, and it is both yours to take and linked to your account until you clear it.

- Plugs: remove each from its app and account, then unplug it — it is yours to take.
- Bulbs: remove them from the app, unscrew them, and replace with the plain bulbs you removed.
- Keep the original bulbs you took out, so you can put them back at move-out.
- Check every lamp, fixture, and outlet, including ones behind furniture.

The important detail with bulbs is to restore the ordinary ones you removed when you moved in. Leaving your smart bulbs behind both costs you a device you paid for and may confuse the next tenant when a bulb behaves oddly with no app.

> **TIP**
> Keep a small bag of the plain bulbs you swapped out when you first moved in, labeled by room. At move-out, putting them back takes minutes instead of a trip to the store.

SPEAKERS & DISPLAYS

9 Smart Speakers and Displays

Smart speakers and displays — an Echo, a Google Nest, a HomePod — hold a surprising amount of personal information: your voice recordings, your calendar, your contacts, your routines. Resetting them before you leave matters for privacy even though you are taking the device with you, because a reset clears what is stored on the device itself.

1. In the companion app, review and, if you wish, delete your voice recordings.
2. Deregister the device from your account in the app.
3. Factory-reset the speaker or display using its reset steps.
4. Unplug it and pack it for the new home.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Even though a speaker comes with you, resetting it clears any paired Wi-Fi and lingering data, so it starts fresh and clean at the new place. It is good housekeeping for the device either way.

If you intend to sell or give away an old speaker rather than move it, the reset becomes essential, not optional. No one should inherit a device still carrying your voice history and account links.

THE TV

10 Wiping a TV You're Leaving Behind

Televisions are a special case because people sometimes leave one behind — in a furnished rental, or simply because it is not worth moving. A modern smart TV is full of your signed-in accounts: your streaming apps, your Wi-Fi password, sometimes your voice and viewing history. Leaving it signed in hands all of that to whoever is next.

1. Open each streaming app and sign out, or remove the device from the app's account online.
2. In the TV's settings, find the option to sign out of the TV's own account.
3. Delete the saved home Wi-Fi network from the TV's network settings.
4. Run a full factory reset from the TV's system or general settings.
5. Confirm it reboots to the first-time setup screen, as if new.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Simply turning the TV off does nothing. Your streaming accounts and Wi-Fi password stay saved inside it. A factory reset is the only thing that truly clears a smart TV.

If you are taking the TV with you, you can skip the reset and just update its Wi-Fi at the new home. The reset matters specifically when the television stays behind for someone else.

STREAMING STICKS

11 Roku, Fire TV, and Other Streaming Devices

A streaming stick or box — Roku, Fire TV, Google TV, Apple TV — is small enough to forget plugged into the back of a TV, and it carries the same signed-in accounts a smart TV does. If you are taking it, grab it; if you leave it, clear it. Either way, do not let it walk off with your logins.

- Taking it: unplug it from the HDMI port and the power — check behind the TV.
- Leaving it: sign out of your streaming accounts, then factory-reset the device.
- On its account page online, remove the device so it drops off your profile.
- Confirm the reset returns it to the setup screen.

These little devices hide behind the television, so the room-by-room walk is where you catch them. Reach behind every screen in the home and feel for a stick or box you may have forgotten was there.

> **TIP**
> Streaming sticks draw power from a small adapter or a USB port on the TV. Follow the cable to make sure you take both the stick and its power piece, not just one.

THERMOSTATS & AC

12 Thermostats and AC Controllers

If you added any climate control — an infrared controller for a window or portable air conditioner, or, where it was allowed, a swapped-in smart thermostat — move-out is when you undo it. The controllers are yours; a swapped thermostat means putting the building's original back exactly as it was.

- IR controllers like a Sensibo or Cielo Breez: remove from the app and unstick or unplug them — they are yours.
- A smart thermostat you installed with permission: reinstall the original thermostat you kept.
- Remove the smart thermostat from your account before taking it down.
- Take a photo of the wiring before and after, so the original goes back correctly.

Most renters never touched the wall thermostat because they could not, so this step is short for most. If you did swap one with the landlord's blessing, the original you set aside at install goes right back on the wall.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Reinstalling a wall thermostat means matching wires to the right terminals. If you are at all unsure, this is a good moment to get help rather than guess with the building's heating.

Rather not do this yourself? I'll come to your home and set it up for you — a flat $99 first visit across Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities. Outside the area? I also help remotely by phone or screen-share. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042.

TAKE DOWN MOUNTS

13 Removing Adhesive Mounts Cleanly

The mounts that held your devices are where deposits are won or lost. Adhesive strips and plates, pulled off carelessly, can take paint and a chunk of drywall with them. Pulled off the right way — slowly, with a little warmth — most come away leaving nothing behind.

1. Warm the adhesive gently with a hair dryer on low to soften it.
2. For pull-tab mounting strips, pull the tab slowly straight down along the wall, not outward.
3. For plates, work a thin tool under one edge and ease it off bit by bit.
4. Rub away any leftover residue with a mild adhesive remover or a little rubbing alcohol.
5. Wipe the spot clean and check the paint is intact.

TIP

Patience is everything here. A strip pulled slowly and straight comes off clean; the same strip yanked fast takes paint. Give each one a full, unhurried minute.

Do this a few days before move-out, not in the final rush, so you have time to touch up any spot that does not come away perfectly. A calm removal is a clean removal.

PATCH THE HOLES

14 Spackling Small Holes

If you accepted a few small anchor or nail holes — the honest reality for anything heavier than an adhesive strip, like a shelf or a bracket — move-out is when you fill them. Small holes are forgiving: a dab of spackle, a smooth-over, and a touch of paint make them vanish. Most landlords expect and accept this kind of tidy patching.

1. Buy a small tub of lightweight spackle and a cheap putty knife.
2. Press a little spackle into each hole and smooth it flush with the wall.
3. Let it dry fully, then lightly sand the spot smooth with fine sandpaper.
4. Wipe off the dust and, if you can match the color, dab on a little paint.
5. Step back and check the patch disappears into the wall.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Ask whether the building can share the exact paint color and finish. Many keep a record, and a matched touch-up is the difference between an invisible patch and an obvious one.

This is honest, ordinary move-out work, not a confession of damage. A wall returned smooth and matched looks cared for, and a landlord who sees care is a landlord inclined to return a deposit in full.

CABLE & RACEWAYS

15 Removing Cable Clips and Raceways

In the course of tidying your technology, you likely stuck down cable clips, adhesive raceways to hide wires, or hooks to route a cord. These are easy to overlook because they fade into the baseboards. They come off the same gentle way as any adhesive mount.

- Walk the baseboards and corners looking for stuck-on clips and raceways.
- Warm each gently and peel it slowly to protect the paint.
- Remove leftover adhesive with a mild remover.
- Coil and pack your own cables and power strips — the floor-standing surge protector is yours.

Surge protectors and power strips sit on the floor rather than screwed down, so they simply unplug and travel with you. The adhesive bits are the only part that needs the careful peel, and they usually come away without a mark.

TIP

Take a phone photo of your cable setup before you dismantle it. At the new place, recreating a layout you liked is far easier from a picture than from memory.

YOUR ROUTER & MESH

16 Packing Up Your Own Network

If you brought your own router or mesh system, it comes with you — it is yours and it is central to your new home's internet. Before you unplug it, a little housekeeping makes the move smoother and keeps your network details from lingering where they are not needed.

1. Note your network name and password if you want to reuse them at the new place.
2. Unplug the router or mesh units and coil their cables.
3. Pack every piece — people often leave a far-flung mesh node in a back bedroom.
4. At the new home, you can keep the same network name so your devices reconnect automatically.

GOOD TO KNOW

Keeping the same network name and password at the new place is a lovely shortcut: your phones, TV, and smart devices reconnect on their own, with nothing to re-enter.

A mesh system means two or more units spread around the home, so count them as you pack. The one tucked in a far room to cover a dead spot is the one most often left behind.

RETURN LEASED GEAR

17 Giving Back the Provider's Equipment

If your internet provider lent you a modem or router, it must go back, or you will be billed for it — often a hefty charge. This is one of the most common, and most avoidable, move-out expenses. Returning it and keeping proof closes the matter for good.

1. Identify which equipment is the provider's — usually the modem, sometimes a combined modem-router.
2. Call or check online for how they want it returned: a shipping label, or a drop-off at a store.
3. Pack it with any power cords and accessories they ask for.
4. Return it by their deadline and get a receipt or tracking number.
5. Keep that proof until you have confirmed the equipment charge is cleared.

WATCH OUT

A leased modem not returned can bring a charge as large as the device itself. The return receipt or tracking number is your proof you sent it back — do not throw it away.

If you own your own modem rather than leasing one, this step does not apply — it travels with you. The point is to return only what was theirs, and to be able to prove you did.

MOVE OR CANCEL INTERNET

18 Transfer, Cancel, or Start Fresh

Your internet service itself needs a decision well before the last day. Depending on where you are headed, you will transfer the service to the new address, cancel it, or start fresh with a new provider. Calling ahead avoids a gap where you have no internet, and avoids paying for service at an empty apartment.

- Call the provider around two weeks ahead to discuss transfer or cancellation.
- Ask whether they serve your new address; if so, a transfer is often simplest.
- If they do not serve it, cancel and arrange a new provider for the new home.

- Time the switch so you are not paying two bills or sitting with no service.

There is a fuller guide to moving your internet, but the move-out essentials are these: decide early, return any leased gear, and keep proof of the cancellation date so no bill arrives for an address you have left.

> **TIP**
>
> Ask the provider for written confirmation of your cancellation or transfer date. A later bill for a place you have vacated is far easier to dispute with that confirmation in hand.

BUILDING SERVICES

19 Canceling Building-Provided Services

If your building included internet, cable, or other managed services in the rent, those usually end naturally when your lease does — but it is worth confirming rather than assuming. Some require you to formally close your part, especially if you had your own login to a managed network.

- Confirm with the building office which services end automatically with your lease.
- Return any equipment the building lent you, such as a cable box or access device.
- Close or hand back any managed-Wi-Fi login that was tied to you personally.
- Ask for written confirmation that your services and any related charges are closed.

The building office is the right desk for all of this. A single conversation, confirmed in writing, ensures you are not left on the hook for a service tied to a unit you no longer occupy.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Bundled services that end with the lease still deserve a confirming word. 'Is everything on my account closed on my move-out date?' is a two-minute question that prevents a surprise bill.

BUILDING APPS

20 Wiping Your Building-App Access

Many modern buildings use an app for the intercom, door entry, or amenities — ButterflyMX, Swiftlane, Latch, and the like. When you leave, your access should be turned off, both so you cannot enter a building you no longer live in and so a stranger cannot use a lingering login. This is usually the building's job to do, but it is yours to confirm.

1. Tell the building office your move-out date and ask them to disable your app access.
2. Remove any virtual keys, delivery PINs, or guest passes you created.
3. Sign out of and delete the building's app from your phone.
4. Confirm with the office that your access has been turned off on their end.

> **WATCH OUT**
>
> Deleting the app from your phone does not necessarily remove your access on the building's system. Ask the office to turn it off at their end, and confirm they have.

This step is about privacy and security for everyone. Lingering digital access to a building is exactly the loose end a careful move-out is meant to tie off. A short note to the office closes it cleanly.

SENSORS & ALARMS

21 Door, Window, and Motion Sensors

Peel-and-stick sensors — for doors, windows, and motion — are tiny and scattered, which makes them the easiest things to leave behind. They are yours, they come off cleanly, and like every smart device they want removing from your account before they come down.

- In the security app, remove each sensor from your system so it drops off your account.
- Peel each sensor and its magnet piece off slowly, warming stubborn adhesive first.
- Check every door, every window, and the usual motion-sensor corners.
- Rub off any residue and confirm the paint and frames are unmarked.

Because they stick in out-of-the-way spots — the top of a door frame, the corner of a window — the room-by-room walk matters most for these. Count them against your original setup so none are forgotten high on a frame.

> **TIP**
> If you installed a stick-on alarm system, its base station and keypad are yours too. Pack the whole set together so it is ready to arm your new home from day one.

DATA & RECORDINGS

22 Saving and Clearing Your Data

Before you reset devices, pause to save anything stored on them that you want to keep, because a factory reset erases it. Cameras hold video clips, speakers hold routines and lists, and various apps hold settings you spent time perfecting. A few minutes of saving now prevents a small regret later.

- Download any camera or doorbell clips worth keeping before resetting.
- Note any automations or routines you want to recreate at the new home.
- Export or screenshot settings you fussed over, like light scenes or schedules.
- Then reset each device, confident nothing you wanted is lost.

This is also a privacy step. Clearing your data off a device before it leaves your hands — especially anything you are selling or giving away — makes sure none of your recordings or history travel on with the hardware.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> A factory reset is meant to wipe a device clean, which is exactly why you save first. Think 'save what I want, then wipe the rest,' in that order, every time.

PASSWORDS & ACCOUNTS

23 Tidying Your Accounts After the Move

Moving is a natural moment to tidy the accounts tied to your old home. A few minutes updating addresses and clearing out old device entries keeps your digital life as organized as your new, unpacked apartment. None of it is urgent, but all of it is satisfying to clear.

- Update your address on the accounts that need it — banking, subscriptions, shopping.
- In each smart-home app, confirm no old devices from the last place still linger in the list.
- Review which apps had access to the old building's network and remove any you no longer need.
- Change any passwords you may have shared with a roommate or landlord at the old place.

If you shared a Wi-Fi password or a device code with anyone at the old home, treat the move as the moment to retire it. A fresh start at the new place means fresh credentials that only you hold.

> **TIP**
>
> If you use a password manager, the move is a fine time to open it and prune out logins for services you canceled. A tidy vault is easier to hand over to family one day, too.

ROOMMATES

24 When You Shared the Home

If you shared the rental with roommates, move-out has an extra layer: untangling whose devices, accounts, and network are whose. Doing this fairly and clearly keeps a friendship intact and makes sure no one walks away still tied to a home they have left.

- Agree who owns each shared device — the speaker, the TV, the router — and who takes it.

- If the internet account is in your name, cancel or transfer it and tell your roommates.
- Remove departed roommates from any shared smart-home app, and change the Wi-Fi password.
- Each person signs out of shared TVs and streaming accounts on the way out.

The device whose account is in your name is your responsibility to close, even if a roommate used it. And if you are the one leaving while others stay, make sure your logins come off the shared devices you leave behind.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Changing the Wi-Fi password when a roommate moves out is a clean, friendly reset. It is not an accusation — it is simply closing the door behind a shared chapter.

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FURNISHED RENTALS

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Leaving a Furnished or Short-Term Place

A furnished rental or a longer short-term stay often comes with its own technology — a TV, a speaker, sometimes a streaming device — that belongs to the owner and stays behind. Here the job flips: you are clearing your own accounts off their equipment, not taking anything down.

1. Sign out of every streaming app you logged into on the provided TV or devices.
2. Remove those devices from your streaming accounts online, as a thorough double-check.
3. Delete your saved Wi-Fi from any device if you connected your own network.
4. Clear any voice recordings or history from a provided smart speaker.
5. Leave the owner's equipment set up and working, minus every trace of you.

WATCH OUT

It is easy to leave a streaming account signed in on someone else's TV. The next guest would then have your account — and could change your password. Always sign out of provided devices.

The courtesy runs both ways: you leave their devices clean and ready for the next person, and you leave with none of your accounts stranded on hardware you will never see again.

FINAL WALKTHROUGH

26 A Last Pass Before You Lock Up

On the last day, do one final, unhurried walk through the empty home looking only for technology and the marks it left. An empty room reveals what a full one hid — a sensor high on a frame, a plug behind where the couch stood, a patch that needs one more dab of paint.

1. Walk every room, looking high and low for any device still stuck, plugged, or screwed in.
2. Reach behind where furniture stood for forgotten plugs and streaming sticks.
3. Check that every mount is down and every small hole is patched.
4. Confirm the original lock, bulbs, and any swapped hardware are back in place.
5. Take dated photos of each room's condition as you leave.

TIP

Photograph every room empty and clean on your way out, the same way you photographed problems on your way in. Those pictures are your best friend if a deposit is ever questioned.

This final pass is quick when you have done the rest along the way. It is the moment everything comes together, and the moment you can hand back the keys knowing you left nothing of yours and took nothing of theirs.

KEEP THE PROOF

27 Receipts, Photos, and Confirmations

The move is not truly closed until you have gathered and kept the proof that you did everything right. These records protect your deposit and shield you from stray bills for months after you have gone. Keep them together in one simple folder, digital or paper.

- The return receipt or tracking number for any leased internet equipment.
- Written confirmation of your internet cancellation or transfer date.
- Confirmation that building services and app access are closed.
- Dated photos of each room left clean, and of any patches you made.

Hold onto these until any final bills have settled and your deposit has been returned. A proof you kept and never needed costs nothing; a proof you wish you had kept can cost a disputed charge you cannot win.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Most deposit and billing disputes are won or lost on proof. The folder of receipts and photos you assemble at move-out is small, but it is the strongest thing you can carry away.

COMMON MISTAKES

28 The Slip-Ups People Make

Move-out tech trouble follows a few predictable patterns. Knowing them lets you dodge each one. None are hard to avoid; they are simply the things that get forgotten in the rush.

- Factory-resetting a device without first removing it from your account.
- Leaving a leased modem behind and being billed for it.
- Yanking adhesive mounts fast and pulling paint with them.
- Leaving a smart TV or streaming stick signed into your streaming accounts.
- Forgetting a far-flung mesh node, a plug behind furniture, or a sensor high on a frame.

WATCH OUT

The costliest single mistake is a leased modem left behind. The most unsettling is a camera still on your account. The checklist exists to catch both before the keys change hands.

Read this list once near the start of your move, and each pitfall becomes something you naturally watch for. Forewarned is forearmed, and a little foresight here saves real money and worry.

COMMON WORRIES

29

Common Worries, Answered

A few questions come up for almost everyone at move-out. Here are plain answers to put your mind at ease.

- Do I have to patch every little hole? Small nail and anchor holes, yes — a dab of spackle is expected and easy.
- Will adhesive mounts ruin the paint? Not if you warm them and peel slowly and straight.
- Is my old camera really still watching? Not once you remove it from your account and factory-reset it — then it is dark.
- What if I forget something small? The final empty-room walk is designed to catch exactly those stragglers.

GOOD TO KNOW

Nothing on this list is urgent or technical enough to fear. Start early, go room by room, and the whole tech side of moving out is just calm, satisfying tidying.

If a particular device or service has you unsure how to close it cleanly, that is a normal place to want a hand. Better to ask than to leave a loose end you worry about after the keys are gone.

HUBS & BRIDGES

30 The Little Boxes That Run Everything

Some smart homes have a quiet workhorse tucked out of sight: a hub or bridge that connects the devices together. A Philips Hue Bridge for the lights, a SmartThings hub, or a smart speaker acting as a hub all fall into this group. They are easy to forget precisely because you rarely touch them, yet they are yours and they hold your settings.

- Look for a small box plugged into your router — a Hue Bridge or similar often lives there.
- Remove the hub from your account and factory-reset it before unplugging.
- It is yours to take, so pack it with its power cord and any network cable.
- Resetting it clears the links to all the devices it managed.

Because a hub often sits beside the router in a closet or on a shelf, the room-by-room walk and a look behind the router are where you catch it. Unplugging the devices without the hub leaves part of your system stranded.

> **TIP**
>
> If your lights or other devices ran through a bridge, reset and pack the bridge too. Without it, those devices will not work the same way at your new home, and you will wish you had brought it.

NEW HOME SETUP

31 Reconnecting Your Devices at the New Place

Taking devices down is only half the story — the other half is bringing them back to life at the new home. A little planning at move-out makes the setup on the other end smooth. The single biggest help is keeping your network name and password the same, so devices reconnect on their own.

1. Note each device's app before you pack, so you know what to reopen at the new place.
2. If you keep the same Wi-Fi name and password, many devices simply reconnect themselves.

3. If the network name changes, each device must be pointed at the new Wi-Fi in its app.
4. Set up your router or mesh first at the new home, then add the devices to it.
5. Recreate any schedules or scenes you saved before resetting.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Keeping the same network name and password at the new home is the easiest shortcut of the whole move. Your phones, TV, speakers, and plugs reconnect with nothing to re-enter.

If you reset devices on the way out, they will need adding back as if new on the other end. That is normal and not a problem — just set aside a little time at the new place to reopen each app and reconnect, one at a time.

SELLING OR DONATING

32 Passing a Device On Safely

If part of your move is parting with a device — selling an old speaker, donating a TV, handing a camera to a friend — the reset step stops being optional and becomes essential. A device given away while still signed into your accounts carries your private information straight to a stranger.

1. Save any data you want off the device first — recordings, photos, settings.
2. Sign out of and remove the device from your account in its app.
3. Factory-reset it fully so none of your Wi-Fi, accounts, or history remain.
4. Confirm it boots to the first-time setup screen before it leaves your hands.
5. Remove it from any online account's device list as a final check.

> **WATCH OUT**
> A smart speaker, TV, or camera given away without a reset can hand over your accounts, your voice history, and your saved passwords. Always wipe a device clean before it goes to anyone else.

This is the same care you would want from whoever sold you a used device. A clean reset protects you and gives the new owner a fresh, trouble-free start. It takes only a few minutes and settles any worry.

UPDATE ADDRESSES

33 Pointing Your Accounts at the New Home

A move is the moment to update the address stored in the accounts and services tied to your old home. Miss one and a delivery, a bill, or an important letter can go to an apartment you no longer live in. A short run through your key accounts closes that gap cleanly.

- Shopping and delivery accounts, so parcels arrive at the new place.
- Banking, subscriptions, and anything that mails you statements.
- Your insurance — a renters policy follows you, so your agent needs the new address.
- Any account that sends a verification code to a physical address.

Set a forwarding order with the post office as a safety net for anything you miss, and over the following weeks note the return address on any mail that still comes to the old home, then update that account too. The forwarding order buys you time to catch the stragglers.

> **TIP**
>
> Update your default delivery address in your shopping accounts the same day you get the new keys. A package sent to the old apartment is one of the most common and avoidable move-day slips.

THE DAY-OF PLAN

34 A Simple Timeline for Moving Day

With the early steps done in the week before, moving day itself has only a short tech list left. Having it clear in your mind keeps the last device, the last mount, and the last confirmation from slipping through in the rush of hauling boxes.

1. Keep your phone and its charger working all day — it runs the apps that reset everything else.
2. Do the final device resets once their rooms are empty and you no longer need them.

3. Take down the last mounts and give any fresh patches a moment to dry.
4. Hand back leased equipment and confirm building app access is off.
5. Do the final empty-room walk and take your dated photos last of all.

> **TIP**
>
> Leave the Wi-Fi router connected until almost the very end if you can. Several reset steps are easier with the network still up, so unplug and pack it as one of your last acts.

A move is tiring, and the temptation at the end is to lock up and drive off. A ten-minute tech pass before you do is what turns a good move-out into a clean one, with nothing left behind and nothing left running.

A SIMPLE START

35 If You Only Do Three Things

If the full checklist feels like a lot during a busy move, these three steps cover the biggest risks to your money, your privacy, and the next tenant. Do these and you have handled the essentials.

1. Remove every smart device from your account and factory-reset it before it leaves your hands.
2. Return any leased internet equipment and keep the receipt.
3. Do a final empty-room walk, taking down every mount and patching small holes.

Those three catch the leased-gear bill, the lingering-account privacy risk, and the deposit-draining damage all at once. Everything else in this guide refines the handover, but these are the core you should never skip.

> **TIP**
>
> Start these the week before you move, not the final hour. A device reset and an equipment return both go smoother with a day or two of breathing room.

FINISH THE JOB

36 Finish the Job Soon

You now have the whole checklist: reset and unlink every device, take your gear and leave theirs, undo the marks you made, return what was leased, and close out the building's apps and services. Start a week or two ahead, go room by room, and the tech side of moving out becomes one more calm, finished thing.

If any part feels fiddly — resetting a stubborn device, reinstalling an original lock or thermostat, or making sure a camera is truly off your account — that is exactly the kind of thing I help neighbors with, often right alongside the rest of the move. There is no such thing as a silly question, and my assistant Sophie can help you set up a visit.

GOOD TO KNOW

You do not have to remember all of it. You just have to remember you can call. Friendly, in-home help, and I come to you — (330) 200-8042.

In 30 years of setting up and taking down technology in people's homes, I have learned that a clean move-out is just a careful one, done a little at a time. Give yourself the week, work the list, and hand back the keys with nothing left behind and nothing left on.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this page handy. It points you straight to what to do for each task.

I want to...	Do this...
Reset a smart device	Remove it from your account in the app first, then factory-reset the hardware
Clear a camera	Save any clips, remove it from your account, reset it, and take it with you
Restore the lock	Delete codes, reset it, lift the retrofit off, reinstall any original hardware
Take down a mount	Warm the adhesive, peel slowly and straight, then remove any residue
Patch small holes	Spackle, smooth, sand, and dab matched paint from the building's record
Return leased gear	Send back the provider's modem by the deadline and keep the receipt
Wipe a TV left behind	Sign out of streaming apps, delete saved Wi-Fi, run a full factory reset
Close building access	Ask the office to disable your app access and confirm it is off their system
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

AT A GLANCE

A Picture to Follow Along

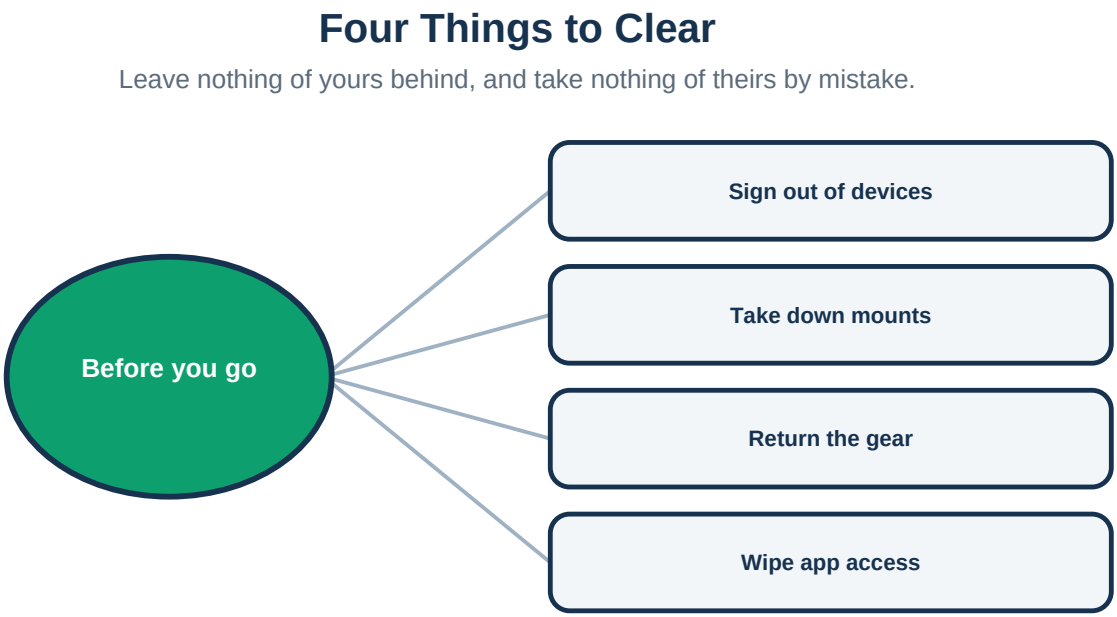


Illustration — a schematic. Set-up screens differ; each takes only a few minutes.

AT A GLANCE

A Second Look

The Move-Out Order

Do one box at a time — start a week or two ahead.



Illustration — a schematic. The order is a suggestion; do one box at a time.

A schematic of the plan — company steps vary; the order does not have to.

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

You don't have to remember all of it — just that a friendly, patient person is one call away, whenever you'd rather have a hand.

KEY SPECS

In your home — $99 flat for the first visit, no contracts and no surprises, with a 30-day come-back-free follow-up. In-home visits cover Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities.
Outside the area? Remotely — $49 for a screen-share session (free for Support Plan members, $39/mo), refundable if I can't fix it — and credited toward a visit if you'd rather have me in person. Book either at billshometech.com/book.

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.

Whenever you're ready, I'll come to your home anywhere in Portage County, Ohio and nearby communities, at your pace. Too far for a house call? I also help remotely. Book at billshometech.com/book or call (330) 200-8042. — Bill

Call or text (330) 200-8042 · bill@billshometech.com

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