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Toyota & Honda Car Apps — Remote Start, Paid Plans, Trial Endings, and Canceling

What the Toyota, Lexus, and HondaLink apps do, what's free, what costs money, and how to cancel

Plain-English car-tech help from:

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SUMMARY

The 60-Second Version

Toyota, Lexus, and Honda apps can start, lock, and find your car from your phone, but those features are paid after a free trial. Toyota's own site lists bundles that include Remote Connect at $15 or $25 a month (November 2026), and a Remote Connect-only option around $8 a month is commonly quoted; confirm in the app.

On many Toyotas, even the key-fob remote start needs Remote Connect. HondaLink's Remote package is about $110 a year after a short trial, per Honda dealers. Safety services like crash notification are separate, with longer trials.

Find your trial end dates in the app now, decide based on what you use weekly, and cancel in the app or in the App Store or Google Play if billed there. Never remote-start in a closed garage. Bill can help remotely for $49 or at home for $99.

1 The Short Version

Toyotas and Hondas are everywhere in Portage County, and most newer ones come with a phone app that can start the car, lock the doors, and tell you where you parked. Then, a few months or a year after you drive off the lot, a notice arrives saying your trial is ending. Suddenly the remote start that worked fine all winter wants a monthly payment.

This guide explains, in plain English, what the Toyota app (and the Lexus app) and HondaLink actually do, which parts are free and which are paid, what the plans cost as of November 2026, how to tell when your trial ends, and how to cancel cleanly if you decide it isn't worth it.

- Toyota and Lexus: remote start and lock from the app need Remote Connect, which is free for a trial and then paid.
- Toyota's current bundles that include Remote Connect are $15 or $25 a month on toyota.com.

- Honda: the HondaLink app is free, but remote start and lock from the app are in a paid Remote plan after a short trial.
- Safety features like crash notification and the SOS button are a separate service with their own, often much longer, trial.
- You can cancel any time. Do it in the app, and check whether the app store is the one billing you.

> **TIP**
>
> Before paying, ask yourself one question: do I actually use remote start from the app, or do I use the button on the key fob? The answer decides most of this.

2 Why Cars Have Subscriptions Now

Newer cars have a built-in cellular connection, a little like a phone hidden in the dashboard. That connection is what lets your phone reach the car from anywhere, not just from the driveway. The carmaker pays a wireless company to keep that link running, and after the free trial, they pass that cost on as a subscription.

So a subscription isn't a scam. It pays for a real service. But it's easy to end up paying for features you don't use, or for a trial you forgot was ending. Knowing what each plan covers lets you keep what's useful and drop what isn't.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> For the bigger picture across all carmakers, see my guides “Remote Start & Car Apps” (billshometech.com/guides/remote-start-car-apps) and “Car Subscription Traps” (billshometech.com/guides/car-subscription-traps). This guide goes deeper on Toyota, Lexus, and Honda specifically.

3 The Toyota App: What It Does

Toyota's phone app is simply called the Toyota app. You sign in with a Toyota account, add your car, and the app becomes a small dashboard for it. What you see depends on your model, year, and which services are active.

- Remote start, with climate control on many models, so the car is warm before you get in.
- Lock and unlock the doors and trunk.
- Last parked location, so you can find the car in a big lot.
- Vehicle status: doors, windows, fuel, and sometimes tire pressure.
- Sound the horn or flash the hazard lights to find the car.
- Guest driver alerts, if someone else is driving (handy for a teen or a loaned car).
- Maintenance reminders and service scheduling.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Lexus works almost the same way through the Lexus app, with the same service names. Everything below about Toyota applies to Lexus too, though prices and trial lengths can differ, so check inside the Lexus app.

4 Toyota's Services, Untangled

Toyota splits its connected features into separately named services. The names are the key to reading any notice you get, because a trial ending for one doesn't mean the others are ending too.

Service	What it does	How you usually get it
Safety Connect	SOS button, automatic crash notification, stolen vehicle help, roadside	Long trial on many newer models (up to 10 years on many 2023 and later), then paid

Service Connect	Maintenance alerts and vehicle health reports	Trial alongside Safety Connect; can't be renewed alone
Remote Connect	Remote start, lock/unlock, find my car, vehicle status	Trial (length varies by model and trim), then paid
Drive Connect	Cloud navigation, live-agent directions, voice assistant	Trial on some models, then paid
Wi-Fi Connect	In-car Wi-Fi hotspot through AT&T	Short trial, then a separate AT&T plan

GOOD TO KNOW

Trial lengths really do vary by model, year, trim, and audio system. Some lower trims never had a Remote Connect trial at all. Your own trial dates are listed in the Toyota app and on your Toyota account online.

5 What Toyota Charges (November 2026)

Here's what Toyota's own Connected Services Plans page listed on November 16, 2026. Each of these bundles includes Remote Connect, and they're offered on select 2022 and later Toyotas.

Plan	What's included	Price
Music Lover	Remote Connect + Integrated Streaming (your Apple Music or Amazon Music)	$15 per month
Go Anywhere	Remote Connect + Drive Connect (cloud navigation, live agent)	$15 per month

Premium	Remote Connect + Drive Connect + Integrated Streaming	$25 per month
Wi-Fi Connect	In-car hotspot	Optional add-on through AT&T

Many owners and dealers also report a Remote Connect-only option for about $8 a month or $80 a year. That option isn't shown on Toyota's plan page, so treat it as a figure to confirm, not a promise. Open the Toyota app and look at the subscriptions or shop screen for your car: that is the price you'll actually be charged.

WATCH OUT

Prices and plans change. The app's subscription screen for your specific car is always the final word. If a price looks different from this guide, trust the app.

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.

6 The Key-Fob Surprise on Toyotas

Many people assume the remote start button on the key fob is free and the app is the paid part. On a lot of recent Toyotas, it isn't that simple. Toyota has said that on many models, the key-fob remote start also depends on an active Remote Connect trial or subscription. When the trial ends, the fob's remote start button may stop starting the car, even though the fob still locks and unlocks the doors.

- Check your owner's manual for “remote start” to see how your model works.
- If your fob remote start stopped working right after a trial notice, this is very likely why.
- Locking and unlocking with the fob buttons is not affected. Only remote start is.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> This varies by model, year, and trim, and Toyota has changed details over the years. If you're unsure, ask the dealer's service desk to check your car's exact setup by its VIN.

7 HondaLink: What It Does

Honda's app is called HondaLink. The app itself is free, and it does some useful things without any subscription, like showing service reminders and helping you schedule maintenance. The connected features are sold as packages, and which packages your Honda can use depends on the model and trim.

- Remote package: remote engine start and remote lock and unlock from the app, on compatible models (exact features vary by model).
- Security package: safety features such as automatic collision notification and stolen-vehicle help.
- Concierge package: a live-agent concierge service on top of the others.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
> Many Hondas also have a remote start button on the key fob itself, which works from a short distance without any app. The Remote package is what adds starting the car from anywhere, through your phone.

8 What Honda Charges

Honda shows exact U.S. prices for your car inside your Honda account and the HondaLink app. The figures below are the ones Honda dealers list, so treat them as a guide and confirm in the app before you buy.

Package	Trial (new vehicles)	Price after trial, as listed by dealers
Security	About 12 months	About $89 per year

Remote	About 3 months	About $110 per year (monthly also offered)
Concierge	About 3 months	About $260 per year

WATCH OUT

Honda's remote trial is short, often just a few months. People are often surprised when it ends before the first winter. Check the trial end date in the app soon after you buy the car.

GOOD TO KNOW

Prices and packages differ in Canada and change over time, so a figure you see online from a Canadian dealer or an older article may not match yours.

9 Finding Out When Your Trial Ends

Don't wait for the notice, which often lands in an email folder you never check. Find the date now and put it on the calendar.

1. Open the Toyota, Lexus, or HondaLink app and sign in.
2. Select your car if you have more than one.
3. Look for a section called Subscriptions, Services, Shop, or your account or profile. The names move around between app updates.
4. Note the end date of each service, especially Remote.
5. Write the dates on your calendar, about two weeks early, as a reminder to decide.

TIP

Can't find it in the app? Your carmaker's owner website shows the same subscription list when you sign in with the same account. A dealer's service desk can also look it up for you.

10 Is It Worth Paying For?

There's no single right answer. It depends on how you use the car and where you park it. Here's an honest way to think it through.

It's often worth it if…	You can probably skip it if…
You park outside and use remote start daily in winter	The car lives in an attached garage
You can't reach the car with the fob (parking garage, far lot)	The fob remote start works and you're in range
A family member drives and you want alerts	Nobody else drives the car
You often forget whether you locked it	You rarely wonder

> *Pay for what you'll use every week. Skip what you used twice during the trial.*

GOOD TO KNOW

Don't drop the safety service just to save a few dollars without thinking it through. Automatic crash notification can call for help if you can't. That one is worth a careful look, especially for an older driver who often drives alone.

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.

11 How to Cancel Cleanly

You can cancel any time. The tricky part is knowing who's actually billing you, because it isn't always the carmaker.

1. In the Toyota, Lexus, or HondaLink app, open the subscriptions or services section for your car.
2. Choose the plan you want to end and look for Cancel or turn off auto-renew.
3. If you subscribed through the iPhone App Store or Google Play, cancel there instead: on iPhone, Settings, your name, Subscriptions; on Android, the Play Store, your profile, Payments & subscriptions.
4. If you can't find a cancel button, call the carmaker's connected-services support. The number is in the app's help section and your owner's manual.
5. Save or screenshot the cancellation confirmation.
6. Check your next card statement to be sure the charge stopped.

WATCH OUT

Cancel only the plan you mean to. On Toyotas, canceling a bundle can remove Remote Connect along with the music or navigation part. Read the confirmation screen before you tap.

TIP

Lost track of what you're paying for in general? “Find & Cancel Subscriptions You Forgot You're Paying For” (billshometech.com/guides/find-and-cancel-subscriptions-forgot-youre-paying) walks through a full check.

12 Setting Up the App the First Time

If you've never connected your car, setup takes about fifteen minutes. You'll want the car nearby and its VIN handy. The VIN is on your registration, insurance card, and the driver-side corner of the dashboard.

1. Install the official app (Toyota, Lexus, or HondaLink) from your phone's app store. Check the maker's name under the app.
2. Create an account with your email and a strong password.
3. Add your car with the VIN, or by scanning it.
4. Follow the prompts to confirm you're the owner. Some steps happen on the car's screen.
5. Turn on notifications for things you care about, like the door left unlocked.
6. Try remote lock from the app while you're standing next to the car, to see it work.

> **WATCH OUT**
> Only use the official app from the carmaker. Look-alike apps and websites ask for your login or payment information. If something asks you to pay to “unlock” remote start outside the official app or dealer, stop.

13 Safety Rules for Remote Start

- Never remote-start a car inside a closed or attached garage. Carbon monoxide can build up and seep into the house.
- Back the car out first, or park it outside if you plan to start it from inside.
- Make sure there's a working carbon monoxide alarm in the house, near the door to the garage.
- Remote start usually shuts off after a set time if nobody gets in and drives.

> **WATCH OUT**
> This is the one rule with no exceptions. A car running in an attached garage is dangerous even with the big door open a crack.

14 Selling or Trading In the Car

Before the car leaves your hands, cut the app's ties to it. Otherwise you might keep paying, or the next owner might be able to see your trips, or you theirs.

- Remove the car from your account in the app.

- Cancel or transfer any paid subscription.
- On the car's screen, look for a reset or factory-reset option to erase your phone pairing, contacts, and saved addresses.
- Remove any garage-door buttons programmed in the car (HomeLink), if you don't want the next owner opening your garage.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> Buying a used Toyota or Honda? Ask the seller to remove the car from their account, then add it to yours. If the old owner can't be reached, the dealer can help with proof of ownership.

15 When to Call Bill

Car apps sit right at the point where a phone, an online account, a carmaker, and a card on file all meet, and it's easy to get tangled. I'm glad to sort it out with you: find your trial dates, explain what you're paying for, decide what's worth keeping, cancel what isn't, and get the app working the way you want.

Remote help is a flat $49, and most of this can be done over the phone and a screen share. If you'd rather sit down together, an in-home visit anywhere in Portage County is $99 flat, and we can walk out to the car and set it up right there.

- Your remote start stopped working and you're not sure why.
- You got a trial-ending notice and want an honest opinion before paying.
- You're being charged and can't find where to cancel.
- You'd like the app set up for a parent, with alerts sent to you.
- You're selling the car and want your accounts and data removed.

CHEAT SHEET

Everyday Cheat Sheet

Keep this handy. Know your trial dates, and pay only for what you use every week.

I want to...	Do this...
See my trial end dates	Open the Toyota / Lexus / HondaLink app › your car › subscriptions or services
Know Toyota's prices	toyota.com bundles with Remote Connect: $15 or $25 a month (Nov 2026); confirm in app
Know Honda's prices	Dealer-listed: Remote about $110/yr, Security about $89/yr; confirm in app
Fix a fob that won't remote start	On many Toyotas it needs Remote Connect; check the trial date
Cancel	In the app; or App Store / Google Play if billed there; save the confirmation
Stay safe	Never remote-start in a closed or attached garage
Get help	Call Bill: (330) 200-8042

WORDS TO KNOW

Plain-English Word List

Connected services — Features that use the car's built-in cellular connection, like app remote start and crash notification.

Remote Connect — Toyota's and Lexus's service for remote start, lock and unlock, and finding the car from the app.

HondaLink — Honda's app and its connected-service packages (Remote, Security, Concierge).

Trial — The free period that starts when the car is first sold. After it ends, the service stops unless you pay.

VIN — The car's 17-character Vehicle Identification Number, used to add the car to the app.

Auto-renew — A setting that charges your card again automatically at the end of each month or year.

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

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