



An Extended Guide · No. 1884

Winter Storage for a Robot Mower — Battery, Blades & Spring Startup

A half-hour in fall
for an easy spring

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Put it to bed right, and spring is easy

When the Ohio mowing season winds down, a half-hour of care sets your robot mower up to wake in spring healthy and ready — instead of with a dead battery, dull blades, and a season's worth of caked grass. This guide walks you through it, plainly.

I'm Bill, and I run Bill's Home Tech here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping folks care for the gear in their homes and yards, patiently and without the jargon. Think of this as me at your kitchen table, walking you through the end-of-season routine one step at a time.

Our winters are hard on anything with a battery. Lake-effect cold, a damp garage, months of sitting still — none of it is kind to a lithium battery or a set of steel blades. The good news is that a robot mower asks very little to winter well, as long as you do a few things in the right order.

★ Happy to help you tuck it in

If you'd rather have a hand with the end-of-season routine — or the spring wake-up — that's exactly the kind of thing I do. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

The whole routine, on one page

If you remember only these things, your mower will winter well and start easily come April.

- ❑ Power the mower fully off before you touch the underside — mind the blades.
- ❑ Clean off the grass and debris, top and bottom, and let it dry.
- ❑ Check the blades; replace them if worn, nicked, or dull.
- ❑ Charge the battery to the level your manual says, then store the mower indoors — cool and dry, never a freezing shed.
- ❑ Bring the base station and the satellite antenna indoors too, or protect them per the manual.
- ❑ In spring: recharge, update the app, reset the schedule, and ease into the first mow around April.

! Blades first, always

Every cleaning and blade step starts the same way: power the mower completely off. The blades are sharp and sudden — treat them with the same respect you'd give a kitchen knife.

Knowing when the season's really over

In Northeast Ohio the calendar lies — some years we mow into November, some years an October cold snap ends it. Watch the grass and the weather, not the date.

Grass more or less stops growing once the ground cools and overnight temperatures settle into the low 40s and below, usually sometime in October or November here. Once you've had a hard frost or two and the lawn isn't really growing, there's nothing left for the mower to do.

That's your cue to run it one last time on a dry day, then bring it in for the winterizing routine. Don't leave it parked outside 'just in case' once the cold sets in — the first deep freeze is exactly what you're trying to spare the battery.

✓ One last dry mow

Try to make the final mow of the year on a dry day with the grass short. A clean, dry mower is far easier to put away — and far nicer to find in spring — than one packed with wet November clippings.

End-of-season cleaning, done safely

A season of mowing leaves grass packed into the deck, around the wheels, and on the blades. Clearing it now prevents rust and stops it hardening into cement over the winter.

Start by powering the mower completely off — not just docking it, but the actual off switch or stop button your manual describes. This matters most before you flip it over, because that's when your hands are near the blades.

With it off, brush and wipe the grass off the top, the wheels, and the underside. A soft brush, a plastic scraper, and a damp cloth do the job. Go easy with water — a light wipe is fine, but don't blast it with a hose or pressure washer unless your manual specifically allows it, since that can force water where it shouldn't go.

! Mind the blades when you flip it

The blades are small but sharp. Wear a work glove, keep your fingers clear of the cutting disc, and never clean the underside of a mower that's still powered on. If flipping it feels awkward on your back or hands, that's a fine thing to let me help with.

Blades — check now, not next spring

The off-season is the ideal time to look at the blades, because you've got the mower flipped over and cleaned already. A fresh set makes spring mowing cleaner and easier on the motor.

Robot mower blades are usually small, cheap, and swapped as a set. Look for nicks, bends, dullness, or thin worn spots. Many of these mowers use tiny razor-like blades on a spinning disc, and they're meant to be replaced fairly often — think of them as a consumable, like a razor cartridge, not a once-a-decade part.

If they're worn, order the correct replacement set for your exact model now, while you're thinking of it, and either fit them before storage or keep them ready for spring. Don't guess at the part — match it to your model number so the fit and balance are right.

✓ Buy the right set for your model

Blades are model-specific. Note your exact model before you order, and if you're not sure which set is right, snap a photo of the old blades and the model label and send it my way — I'll help you get the correct ones.

The battery — the part winter can ruin

If you do nothing else right, get the battery right. A lithium battery is the most expensive, most cold-sensitive part of the whole machine, and an Ohio winter is exactly what it dislikes.

Two things hurt a lithium battery in storage: deep cold and sitting at the wrong charge for months. A battery left to freeze in an unheated shed, or left fully drained all winter, can come out of hibernation weak or dead. That's a costly surprise for something so avoidable.

So do two things. First, charge it to the level your manual recommends for storage — often somewhere in the middle rather than bone-empty or packed full; always follow your own manual, since makers differ. Second, store the mower (or the removable battery, if yours comes out) indoors where it stays cool and dry — a basement or a heated garage, not a freezing shed.

! Not a freezing shed, not a full discharge

The two classic killers are a battery left to freeze outdoors and a battery left flat all winter. Avoid both and your battery will likely greet spring just fine.

Finding the mower a good winter home

Once it's clean and charged to the storage level, where you put the mower for the winter is mostly about temperature and dryness.

- **Cool and dry beats cold and damp.** A heated garage, a basement, or a utility room is ideal.
- **Off the bare concrete floor** if you can — a shelf or a scrap of plywood keeps it away from the coldest, dampest spot.
- **Away from furnaces and water heaters** — cool, not hot, and not beside anything that could leak or spark.
- **Where you'll remember it.** If your manual asks you to top up the charge mid-winter, don't bury the mower behind the Christmas boxes.

✓ A mid-winter check-in

Some manuals suggest a brief recharge partway through a long storage spell so the battery never drifts too low. Pop a reminder on your calendar for around the new year, and you'll never be caught out.

The base station and the satellite antenna

The mower isn't the only thing out in the yard. The charging base and, on wire-free models, the satellite antenna also deserve a thought before the snow flies.

If you can, bring the base station indoors for the winter along with the mower — it keeps the contacts clean and the electronics out of the freeze-thaw cycle. If it's easier to leave the base in place, at least unplug it and, if your manual suggests, cover or shelter it.

The wire-free mowers use a small fixed antenna or reference station that needs a clear view of the sky to place the mower by satellite. That little antenna is delicate and worth bringing inside for the winter so ice and heavy snow don't damage it. Note exactly how it was mounted and aimed, so putting it back in spring is quick.

★ I'll note how the antenna was set

The satellite antenna has to go back in the same clear-sky spot for the mower to find itself in spring. When I help winterize, I note the mounting and aim so re-installing it is a five-minute job. Call (330) 200-8042.

What can safely stay in the yard

Not everything comes indoors. Here's what's fine to leave out through an Ohio winter, and what to do about it.

If your mower uses a buried boundary wire, that stays in the ground — it's made to live there year-round. There's nothing to bring in; just know where it runs so you don't slice it with an edger or a shovel come spring. A quick sketch of the wire's path, kept with your papers, saves headaches later.

A base station left outdoors should at least be unplugged for the winter and, ideally, sheltered. The real cold-sensitive parts — the battery, the mower's electronics, and the satellite antenna — are the ones that belong indoors. When in doubt, the manual tells you what tolerates the weather and what doesn't.

✓ Map the buried wire before it snows

If you've got boundary wire, a simple photo or sketch of where it runs is worth its weight in spring — especially before you or a landscaper start digging, edging, or planting near the lawn's edge.

Two kinds of homes, two sets of needs

How much winterizing you do depends a lot on which kind of mower you have and where you can store it. Picture your own setup as you read.

A simple wired mower, roomy garage

If you have an older-style mower with buried boundary wire and a heated garage or basement to store it in, your routine is short and sweet.

- Clean it, check the blades, charge to the storage level, bring it in.
- The buried wire stays in the ground — nothing to do there.
- A heated garage means the battery is already in a kind place.
- Bring the base in if it's easy; otherwise unplug and leave it.

A wire-free satellite mower, no heated space

If you have a newer wire-free mower that navigates by satellite, and only a cold shed or an unheated garage, you've got a couple more steps — and the battery needs special thought.

- Bring the satellite antenna indoors and note how it was aimed.
- Don't leave the battery to freeze — store it (or the mower) in the house if the garage is unheated.
- Bring the base in too; its electronics dislike freeze-thaw.
- Photograph the app's boundary and settings before the layoff.

★ Not sure which steps are yours?

Tell me what kind of mower you've got and where you can store it, and I'll map out exactly what your setup needs — no more, no less. Call (330) 200-8042.

Your end-of-season checklist

Work down this list on a dry fall day and your mower is set for the winter. Check each box.

- ☐ Ran it one last time on a dry day with the grass short.
- ☐ Powered it completely off before touching the underside.
- ☐ Cleaned grass and debris off the top, wheels, and underside.
- ☐ Let it dry fully before storage.
- ☐ Checked the blades; replaced them if worn or ordered the right set.
- ☐ Charged the battery to the storage level in my manual.
- ☐ Stored the mower indoors — cool, dry, off the bare floor.
- ☐ Brought in the base station and the satellite antenna.
- ☐ Noted how the antenna was mounted and aimed.
- ☐ Set a mid-winter reminder to top up the charge if my manual asks.

✓ Keep this with the mower

Tuck a copy of this checklist and your model number right where the mower winters. Next fall it's all there waiting, and you won't have to remember a thing.

Waking it up in spring

Come spring — here, that's usually once the lawn is truly growing in April — bringing the mower back is just the put-away routine in reverse, plus a little housekeeping.

- **Recharge fully.** Bring the battery back up to a working charge before the first run.
- **Reinstall the base and antenna.** Put the satellite antenna back in the same clear-sky spot, aimed as you noted.
- **Update the app.** Open the phone app and let it update — a winter's worth of improvements may be waiting.
- **Reset the schedule.** Set your mowing days and times for the new season.
- **Ease into the first mow.** Start when the grass is actively growing and the lawn has dried out from the spring wet.

★ Spring is where I'm handiest

The app update, the schedule, and getting the satellite setup to find itself again are the fiddly parts — and exactly where I can help, often right over a screen-share. Call me in April. (330) 200-8042.

That first spring mow in Ohio

Our springs are wet, and the lawn comes back unevenly. A little patience with the first mow pays off for the whole season.

Wait until the grass is genuinely growing and the lawn has firmed up and dried from the spring rains — a robot mower slips, slides, and clumps on soggy ground, and can leave ruts in soft April soil. There's no prize for the earliest mow; a week's patience saves your lawn.

That first time out, walk the yard with the mower for a few minutes. Pick up winter's fallen sticks, check that the boundary is still right, and watch for any spot where a heave or a mole run has changed the ground. A few minutes of watching heads off a stuck or stalled mower.

! Clear the sticks before the blades find them

Winter drops a lot of twigs and the odd bigger branch. Those, plus leftover acorns, can jam or dull the blades fast. A quick walk-and-pick before the first run saves the blades and prevents a stall.

Make it a yearly once-over

The put-away and wake-up visits are the natural time to give the whole machine a yearly look, so small problems don't become spring surprises.

While you've got it apart for cleaning, glance at the wheels for tangled grass or worn tread, check that the charging contacts are clean and bright, and make sure nothing's cracked or loose. None of this is hard — it's the same spirit as checking the oil, just a quick look to catch trouble early.

This is also a good moment to confirm the mower's theft settings still work and the app is current — our theft-prevention guide covers those. One seasonal routine, and both the machine and its protections stay in good shape.

★ Let's make it a spring tune-up

When I help folks wake a mower for the season, I give it that yearly once-over at the same time — clean contacts, fresh blades, updated app, working schedule. One visit, ready for summer. Call (330) 200-8042.

A little more on lithium batteries

Since the battery is the part most worth protecting, here are a few plain truths that make it last.

- **They hate deep cold.** Freezing isn't just unpleasant for a lithium battery; it can permanently weaken it. Indoors is the rule.
- **They hate sitting empty.** A battery left flat for months can drop so low it won't wake up. Store it part-charged, per your manual.
- **They don't love being packed full either.** A middle charge for long storage is gentler than a full one — but follow your own manual.
- **They age no matter what.** Even cared for, a battery slowly loses capacity over years; eventually it's a normal part to replace.

✓ When a battery finally fades

If your mower runs noticeably shorter after a few years, that's normal aging, not neglect. A replacement battery is usually available for an established brand — another reason to buy a maker whose parts you can get.

The mistakes that cost people a battery

Almost all spring heartbreak traces back to a short list of avoidable fall mistakes. Now you'll sidestep them.

- **Leaving it in a freezing shed all winter** — the single most common way to ruin a good battery.
- **Storing it bone-dry or dead** — a flat battery can slip too low to ever recover.
- **Putting it away filthy and wet** — grass hardens, metal rusts, and spring you is not grateful.
- **Forgetting the satellite antenna outside** — ice and snow can damage it, and you lose your setup notes.
- **Rushing the first spring mow** — mowing soggy April grass clumps, slips, and ruts the lawn.

! The freeze is the one that really stings

If you take just one thing from this guide, it's this: don't let the battery freeze. Everything else is tidiness; that one is the expensive mistake.

What if you don't have a warm spot?

Plenty of Ohio homes don't have a heated garage. You can still winter a mower well — the trick is to separate the cold-sensitive parts from the rest.

If the battery comes out of your mower, that's your easiest path: bring just the battery indoors — a closet, a basement shelf, anywhere it stays cool and above freezing — and the bulky mower body can ride out the winter in the unheated garage or shed, since the metal and plastic don't mind the cold the way the battery does.

If the battery doesn't come out, bring the whole mower inside. It's not as big as it feels, and a basement corner or a utility room is plenty. The antenna and base come in too. A cold shed is the one place the battery shouldn't spend the winter.

★ I'll help you find a spot that works

Tell me what storage you've got, and I'll help you figure out what has to come indoors and what can stay out — so you don't need a fancy garage to winter your mower safely. Call (330) 200-8042.

It's simpler than it sounds

That's a lot of pages for what is, honestly, a short afternoon's work once a year. Let me put it back in proportion.

Strip it all down and winterizing a robot mower is three ideas: clean it, protect the battery from the cold, and bring the delicate bits indoors. Do those and you've done the important part. The checklists just make sure nothing slips your mind.

A mower that's put away right costs you nothing over the winter and greets you in spring ready to work. A mower left out in the cold can cost you a battery and a frustrating April. The half-hour is some of the best-spent time in your whole lawn year.

✓ Pair it with another fall chore

Fold the mower's put-away in with your other end-of-season jobs — draining the hoses, putting up the patio furniture. One fall afternoon, everything tucked in together.

A word about fall leaves

Before the mower goes away, our Ohio autumns bring a flood of leaves — and a robot mower has opinions about them.

A light scatter of leaves a mower can usually mulch as it goes, and that's fine. But a thick blanket of wet maple and oak leaves is another matter: it clogs the deck, hides sticks and acorns, and can stall the mower. Once the leaves really start piling up, it's often time to rake or blow them and let the mower rest for the season.

Don't count on the mower to handle a heavy leaf fall — that's a job for a rake, a blower, or the leaf service. Trying to push a robot mower through soaked leaf drifts just stresses the blades and the motor for little result.

✓ Leaves can signal it's time to winterize

When the leaves are coming down faster than the mower can handle, that's often nature's signal that the season's about done. Do a last dry mow, then move on to the put-away routine.

A few notes that make next year easy

Five minutes of writing things down in the fall turns next spring's wake-up from a puzzle into a routine.

Keep a simple page with your home papers: the exact model number, the correct blade set, where the base and antenna go and how the antenna's aimed, and — if you've got buried wire — a sketch of its path. Add the date you last changed the blades so you know when they're due again.

This same page is handy all year: it's what you reach for when ordering parts, calling support, or — heaven forbid — filing a theft or insurance claim. Our theft-prevention guide leans on these same records, so one page does double duty.

★ I'll help you make the page once

On a visit I can help you jot down the model, the parts, and the setup notes in one place, so you've got it for parts, support, and next spring. Call (330) 200-8042.

Common Questions

The questions I hear most about wintering a robot mower, answered plainly.

Q: Can I just leave it in the garage all winter?

If the garage stays above freezing, yes. If it's an unheated garage or shed that drops below freezing, bring at least the battery indoors — deep cold is what ruins a lithium battery.

Q: What charge should the battery be at for storage?

Follow your manual — most prefer a partial charge, somewhere in the middle, rather than bone-empty or packed full. Avoid storing it flat, and consider a mid-winter top-up if the manual suggests one.

Q: Do I really need to bring the satellite antenna inside?

It's a good idea. The antenna is delicate, and Ohio ice and snow can damage it. Bring it in, note how it was aimed, and reinstalling it in spring takes only a few minutes.

Q: When should I start mowing again in spring?

When the grass is actively growing and the lawn has dried out from the spring wet — usually sometime in April here. Mowing soggy ground too early just clumps the grass and ruts the lawn.

★ Want a hand with the routine?

Putting a mower to bed and waking it up are exactly the kind of seasonal jobs I'm glad to take off your plate. Call or text me at (330) 200-8042.

You don't have to do this alone

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

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

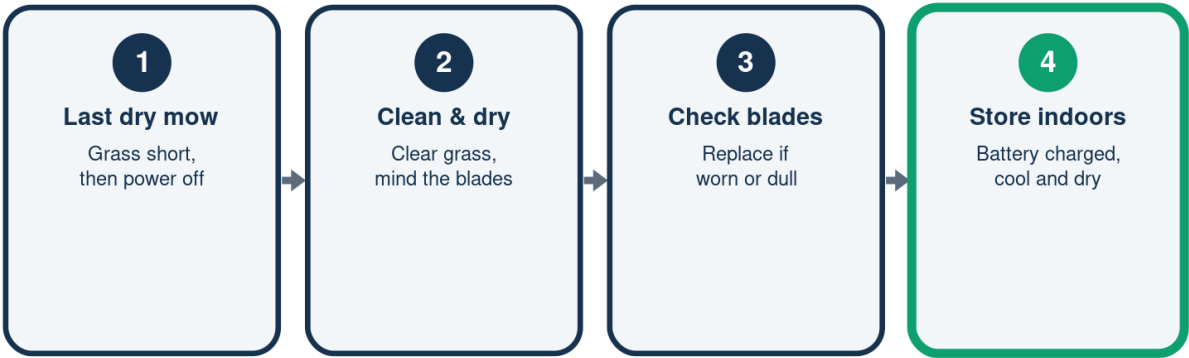
When you'd rather have a hand, that's exactly what I do. I come to your home, work at your pace, and never make you feel rushed or silly for asking. I'll help you choose the right machine, get it set up and mapped, connect it to your Wi-Fi and your phone, and show you how to run it. A first visit is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

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Putting It to Bed

The end-of-season routine, in order



A dry fall afternoon sets the mower up for an easy spring.

Indoors or Outdoors for Winter?

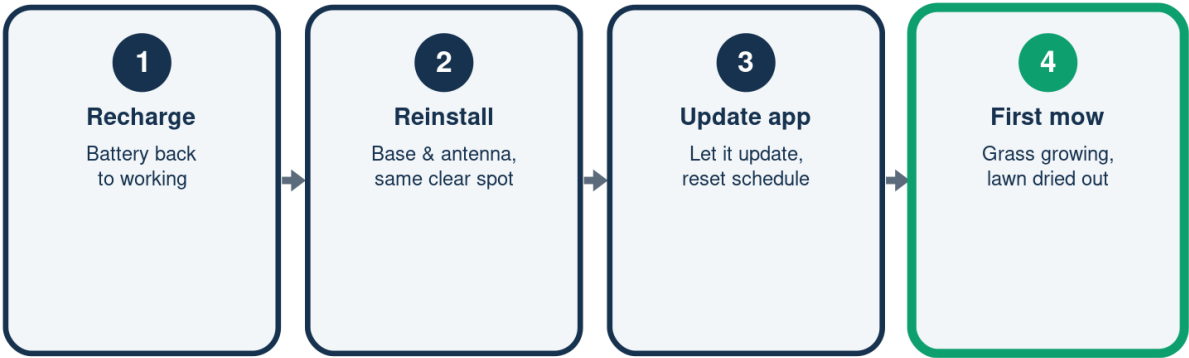
Separate the cold-sensitive parts from the rest

	Part	Where it goes
	Battery	Indoors -- never freezing
	Mower body	Indoors if battery stays in
	Base station	Indoors, or unplug & shelter
	Sat. antenna	Indoors -- note the aim
	Buried wire	Stays in the ground

The battery is the part an Ohio winter can ruin.

Waking It in Spring

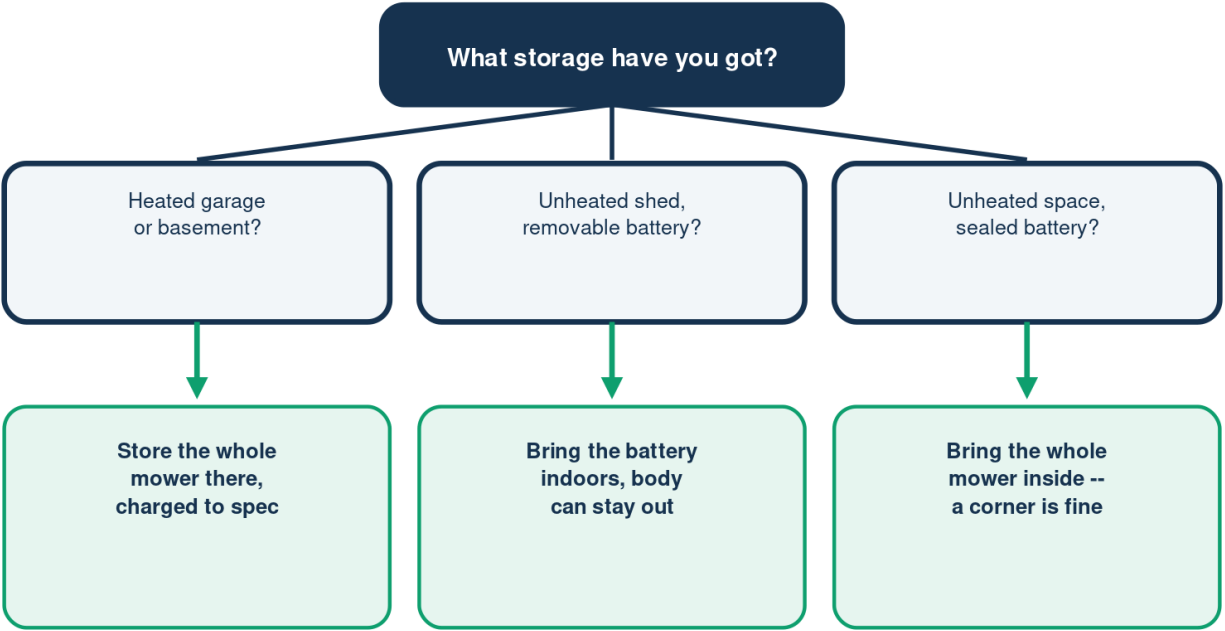
The put-away routine, in reverse



Here, that first mow is usually sometime in April.

Where Should the Battery Winter?

Let your storage answer the question



Never let a lithium battery freeze or sit fully drained all winter.

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



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A Note From Bill

A quick note from Bill.

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

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