BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Apple TV

One little box, one simple remote — every show, movie, and your own photos, in plain English

A plain-English guide to the box, the remote, and everything on it

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Apple TV 4K running tvOS · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your Apple TV manual. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test, and you can't fall behind. We start by untangling the one thing that confuses everybody (three different things are all called "Apple TV"), then set the box up one cable at a time, learn the little remote, and go on to watching, photos, music, and even FaceTime on the big screen. Every feature comes with what it actually does *for you* and slow, step-by-step directions. If a screen looks a little different on yours, the idea is still the same.

Part 1 — What Apple TV Is — and the Name That Trips Everyone Up

1 A Note from Bill
2 The Three Things All Called "Apple TV"
3 What the Box Does for You
4 What You Need Before You Start

Part 2 — Setting It Up — One Cable at a Time

5 Plugging In the Box
6 Pairing the Remote and First-Time Setup
7 Teaching the Apple Remote to Run Your TV

Part 3 — The Siri Remote — Your One Tool

8 Every Button, Explained
9 Moving Around: Click vs. Swipe
10 Talking to It: The Siri Button

Part 4 — Getting Around the Home Screen

11 The Home Screen, Explained
12 Opening, Leaving, and Arranging Apps
13 The Apple TV App — One Place to Find Shows

Part 5 — Getting Your Streaming Services

14 Installing an App from the App Store
15 Signing In to Each Service
16 Subscriptions — What You're Paying For

Part 6 — Finding and Watching Shows

17 Finding Something to Watch
18 The Controls While You're Watching
19 Captions, Subtitles, and Clearer Sound

Part 7 — The Delightful Extras

20 AirPlay — Your Phone on the Big Screen

21 Your Photos and Screen Savers
22 Music and Radio Through the TV
23 FaceTime on the Big Screen

Part 8 — Streaming, Explained — What's What and What's Worth It

24 A Friendly Tour of the Popular Services
25 The Free Television Many People Miss
26 Keeping the Monthly Bills Sensible
27 Live News, Sports, and "Regular" TV
28 Better Sound (If You Want It)

Part 9 — Settings, Comfort, Upkeep & Staying Safe

29 Making It Easier to See and Hear
30 Keeping the Box Healthy
31 When Something Goes Wrong
32 Staying Safe — The Few Scams to Know

Part 10 — Living With It Day to Day

33 Sharing the TV With the Household
34 A Few Fun Extras Beyond Shows
35 Sleep, Energy, and Everyday Habits
36 Questions Folks Ask Most

Part 11 — Your Cheat-Sheet & When to Call Bill

37 The Everyday Cheat-Sheet
38 When to Call Bill

PART 1

What Apple TV Is — and the Name That Trips Everyone Up

Before a single cable, let's clear up the one thing that confuses almost everybody: there are three different things all called "Apple TV." Once you see them apart, the rest is easy.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you're holding this book, there's a small black box called an Apple TV sitting by your television — maybe you bought it, maybe the family set it up and then flew home, leaving you with a remote and a lot of questions. Either way, you've come to the right place, and we'll sort it out together.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, right here in Portage County, and I wrote this the same way I'd sit down next to you on the couch: patiently, in plain English, no rushing and no fancy words. If I ever use a term you don't know, I'll stop and explain it right then — you won't have to look anything up.

You truly cannot break it

Here's the most important promise in this whole book: **you cannot break your Apple TV by pressing buttons and exploring.** The worst that happens is you land on a screen you didn't mean to — and there's always a **Back** button to step right out of it, like a porch you can always walk back to. Poking around to see what each button does is exactly how everyone learns, me included.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Once it's set up, your Apple TV puts nearly every show, movie, and streaming service on one tidy screen, controlled by one small remote — instead of juggling three remotes and hunting for the right "input." It can also show your own photos on the big screen and even let you see family on a FaceTime video call from your couch. We'll get to all of it.

And I'm only a phone call away

This book will carry you a long way. But if you ever get stuck, you're never stuck alone — that's not how I do things. Call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll work it out together, with no judgment and no eye-rolling. There's no such thing as a silly question; the only bad one is the question you talked yourself out of asking. So take a breath, and let's get to know your Apple TV.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

The Three Things All Called "Apple TV"

This is the single most confusing thing about the whole subject, and Apple didn't make it easy by giving three different things nearly the same name. Let's lay them side by side, because once you can tell them apart, everything else falls into place.

What it's called	What it actually is
1. The Apple TV box (the device)	A small black box, about the size of a coaster, that plugs into your television. This is the **hardware** — the actual thing you own. The full name is "Apple TV 4K." This box is what this whole book is mostly about.
2. The Apple TV app	A piece of software — an "app," like a channel — that lives on the box (and on iPhones, iPads, and many smart TVs). It's where you find and play shows. Think of it as one of the channels on your box.
3. The Apple TV subscription	A paid service, around the cost of a magazine subscription each month, that unlocks Apple's own shows and movies (things like their original series). It used to be called "Apple TV+" with a plus sign. You watch it *inside* the Apple TV app.

GOOD TO KNOW

A helpful way to picture it

Think of a television set. The **box** is like the TV itself — the physical machine. The **app** is like one particular channel on it. The **subscription** is like paying for that premium channel's shows. You can own the box and never pay for the subscription — you'll still use it for Netflix, YouTube, and everything else.

Why the names changed

In late 2025, Apple dropped the "plus" and renamed the subscription service from **Apple TV+** to just **Apple TV**. That's why you may see both names floating around. If an older guide or a friend says "Apple TV+," they mean the same subscription that's now simply called Apple TV. Nothing about your box changed — only the name of the service.

A quick way to tell which one someone means

When a family member or a help article says "Apple TV," use this little test. If they're talking about a *thing you plug in* or a *remote*, they mean the **box**. If they say "open Apple TV" or mention an icon on the screen, they mean the **app**. If they mention *paying monthly* for Apple's shows, they mean the **subscription**. Nine times out of ten the surrounding words make it clear, and now you'll catch it.

The good news

You do **not** need the paid Apple subscription to enjoy your Apple TV box. The box's real job is to be the comfortable home for *all* your streaming — Netflix, YouTube, Hulu, Prime Video, PBS, your local channels' apps, and so on. Apple's own subscription is just one optional extra among many. Keep that in your back pocket and the rest of this book will feel much simpler.

CHAPTER 3

What the Box Does for You

So what is this little box actually *for*? In plain terms, it turns any television with the right socket into a "smart" TV that can play shows from the internet. Here's what that means in everyday life.

One place for all your streaming

Streaming simply means watching shows that come in over the **internet** instead of through a cable or antenna. Each service — Netflix, YouTube, and the rest — is an app on your box. They all live together on one home screen, and one remote runs the lot. No more squinting at three remotes wondering which turns on what.

Rent or buy a movie

Fancy a particular film tonight? You can rent or buy movies right on the box and watch them on the spot — handy for a new release that isn't on any service you already pay for. We'll cover how (and how to avoid spending by accident) later on.

Show your own photos on the big screen

If you keep photos on an iPhone or iPad, your Apple TV can display them on the television — a lovely way to share vacation pictures or grandchildren with everyone in the room, instead of passing a small phone around the couch.

See family on the TV with FaceTime

Newer Apple TV boxes can host a **FaceTime** video call right on your television, using your iPhone or iPad as the camera. The whole family gathered on the couch, the grandkids filling the big screen. It takes a bit of setup, which we'll walk through gently in a later chapter.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

The Apple TV box replaces a pile of confusion with one calm screen and one remote. Whether you want tonight's movie, your favorite series, your own photos, or a face-to-face chat with family, it's all in one friendly place — and we'll take each piece slowly.

CHAPTER 4

What You Need Before You Start

Let's make sure you have the few things required. You very likely already do.

1. A television with an HDMI socket

Your Apple TV box connects to the television with a single cable called an **HDMI cable** (it's a flat, wide plug, about three-quarters of an inch across). Almost every television made in the last fifteen years has at least one HDMI socket on the back or side, usually labelled "HDMI." If yours does, you're set.

2. Home internet (Wi-Fi)

Because streaming comes over the internet, the box needs your home **Wi-Fi** (your wireless internet). If you can watch videos or check email on a phone at home, you have what you need. You'll enter your Wi-Fi password once during setup and never again.

3. An Apple Account

An **Apple Account** (the free account, once called an "Apple ID," that every Apple device uses) ties the box to you. If you already have an iPhone or iPad, you have one — use the same one, and your apps and purchases come along. If you don't, the setup can help you make one for free.

4. The box, its power cord, and the remote

In the Apple TV's package you'll find the black box, a power cord, and the **Siri Remote** (the slim metal remote). Note that Apple usually does **not** include the HDMI cable in the box, so if you don't have a spare, that's the one small thing you may need to buy — any standard HDMI cable works.

> TIP
>
> **Not sure you have everything?**
>
> If you're staring at the box wondering whether you've got the right cable or socket, that's a perfect moment for a quick call. I'm glad to tell you exactly what to look for on the back of your particular television, or to come set the whole thing up with you — (330) 200-8042.

PART 2

Setting It Up — One Cable at a Time

Plugging in the box, finding the right picture on your TV, joining Wi-Fi, and signing in. We'll go slowly; there's nothing here you can get wrong for good.

CHAPTER 5

Plugging In the Box

Setting up the box is mostly about two cables and a socket. Take your time — if a plug doesn't go in, it's simply the wrong way round or the wrong socket, never anything broken.

Step by step

1. Set the Apple TV box on a shelf or stand near your television, where air can reach it (it likes a little breathing room).
2. Plug one end of the **HDMI cable** into the **HDMI** socket on the back of the Apple TV box.
3. Plug the other end of that HDMI cable into any socket labelled **HDMI** on your television. Note which number it is — "HDMI 1," "HDMI 2," and so on — you'll want that in a moment.
4. Plug the **power cord** into the box and into a wall outlet. The box has no on/off switch — it powers up on its own once it has electricity.

> TIP
> **HDMI plugs only fit one way**
> An HDMI plug is shaped so it only goes in correctly one way — slightly wider at the top than the bottom. If it won't slide in, don't force it; turn it over and try again. It should seat with a gentle, firm push, no muscle required.

Finding the Apple TV picture on your television

Here's the step that stumps the most people, and it's genuinely simple once you know the trick. Your television can show several things, and you have to tell it to show the Apple TV. That's called choosing the **input** or **source**.

1. Pick up your **television's own remote** (not the Apple TV remote) — the one you've always used.
2. Find the button labelled **Input**, **Source**, or showing a little rectangle with an arrow. Press it.
3. A list appears on screen: HDMI 1, HDMI 2, and so on. Choose the **same HDMI number** you plugged the box into a moment ago.
4. The Apple TV's welcome screen appears. You've done the hard part!

GOOD TO KNOW

Why there are two remotes for now

During setup and switching on, your **TV's remote** controls the television itself — power and input. The **Apple TV remote** controls what's on the Apple TV. Later we'll set things up so the Apple TV remote can also turn your TV on and change its volume, so you can mostly set the TV remote aside.

CHAPTER 6

Pairing the Remote and First-Time Setup

With the welcome screen showing, the box walks you through a friendly setup. You just follow along; here's what to expect so nothing surprises you.

Waking up the remote

The **Siri Remote** should connect on its own — give it a click or a press to wake it. If the box doesn't seem to notice the remote, rest the remote a few inches from the box, or press and hold the **Back** button and the **volume up** button together for a few seconds to pair them. Once paired, it stays paired.

The setup questions, in plain English

The box asks a short series of questions. Here's what each one means and the easy answer:

The box asks…	What to do
Language & country	Choose English and your country. Simple.
Set up with iPhone?	If you have an iPhone, bringing it close lets it hand over your Wi-Fi and account automatically — the easiest path. Or choose "Set Up Manually" to type things in yourself.
Wi-Fi network	Pick your home network from the list and type its password (the same one your phone uses). This is usually the only password you'll type.
Sign in to your Apple Account	Enter your Apple Account email and password, or let your nearby iPhone fill it in. This connects your apps and purchases.
A few preferences	Questions about screen savers, location, and whether to send Apple diagnostics. Any answer is fine; you can change them later.

TIP

Typing on a TV screen is fiddly — let your phone help

Entering passwords by moving a cursor around an on-screen keyboard is the most tedious part of setup. If you have an iPhone or iPad, choosing "Set up with iPhone" skips most of that typing. If you don't, go slowly — there's no time limit, and you can't get it wrong permanently.

When setup finishes

After the questions, you land on the **Home screen** — a grid of app icons. That's home base, and the rest of this book lives here. Congratulations; the hardest part is behind you. Everything from now on is just learning your way around a friendly, forgiving screen.

CHAPTER 7

Teaching the Apple Remote to Run Your TV

A lovely convenience: the Apple TV remote can learn to turn your television on and off and change its volume, so you can keep one remote on the arm of the chair and tuck the other away. The box often sets this up automatically, but here's how to check and fix it.

Volume and power

- Try pressing the **volume** buttons (on the right edge of the Apple remote) while watching something. If the TV's volume changes, you're already set.
- If it doesn't, go to **Settings** (the gear icon) > **Remotes and Devices** > **Volume**, and follow the short steps to teach the remote your TV.

Once this works, pressing a button on the Apple remote can wake both the box and the television together, and the volume buttons control your TV's speakers. One remote for nearly everything — a small thing that makes daily watching much calmer.

GOOD TO KNOW

You can always fall back to the TV's own remote

Teaching the Apple remote to run your TV is a convenience, not a requirement. If it ever acts up, your television's original remote still works exactly as it always did for power and volume. Nothing is lost by keeping it in the drawer as a backup.

PART 3

The Siri Remote — Your One Tool

The slim metal remote is how you do everything. It has only a few buttons, and once your thumb learns them you'll barely look down. Here's each one, slowly.

CHAPTER 8

Every Button, Explained

The Siri Remote is deliberately simple — far fewer buttons than the cable remote you may be used to. The newer remotes are a slim metal wand; let's name each part. (If your remote looks a little different, the ideas are the same — the buttons just sit in slightly different spots.)

Button	What it does
The clickpad (top circle)	The round touch area at the top. Press its outer edge — up, down, left, right — to move the highlight around the screen, or lightly swipe across it. Press the **center** to select, like pressing "OK."
Back	Steps you back to the previous screen, like an "undo" for where you are. Your escape hatch any time you feel lost. Press it a few times to return toward the Home screen.
Home (the TV-shaped button)	Jumps straight to the Home screen from anywhere. Hold it down to quickly put the box to sleep.
Siri / Search button (side)	Press and hold to speak a request — "find comedies," "open Netflix." More on this soon.
Play / Pause	Starts and pauses whatever you're watching.
Volume (right edge)	Turns the sound up and down (once taught to your TV, as we set up earlier).
Power (top right)	Turns the television and box on or off together.

TIP

The two buttons that rescue you every time

If you remember only two buttons, make them **Back** (steps you out of anywhere you didn't mean to be) and **Home** (jumps straight back to the main screen). Between them, you can never get truly lost. Press one, breathe, and you're on familiar ground.

CHAPTER 9

Moving Around: Click vs. Swipe

The one new skill is steering the highlight — the glowing outline that shows where you are — around the screen. There are two ways, and you can mix them however feels natural.

Clicking (the steady way)

Press the **edge** of the clickpad in the direction you want to go: press the top edge to move up, the right edge to move right, and so on. Each press moves the highlight one step. This is the calm, precise way, and many folks prefer it because nothing jumps around unexpectedly.

Swiping (the quick way)

Lightly drag your thumb across the clickpad surface — a **swipe** — and the highlight glides in that direction. A longer or faster swipe travels farther. It's quicker for crossing a big screen, but takes a gentle touch; if things fly past, you're swiping too hard.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **Use whichever feels right — you can switch any time**
>
> Clicking and swiping both work all the time; you don't choose one forever. Lots of people click for careful moves and swipe for long jumps. If swiping feels twitchy, just click the edges instead. There's no wrong way to steer.

Selecting and going back

When the thing you want is highlighted, press the **center** of the clickpad to open it — that's your "OK." Changed your mind, or opened the wrong thing? Press **Back**. That gentle rhythm — highlight, center to choose, Back to retreat — is nearly everything you'll ever do.

CHAPTER 10

Talking to It: The Siri Button

Tucked on the side of the remote is a button that lets you simply *ask* for what you want out loud, instead of typing or hunting. It's called **Siri** (Apple's voice assistant), and for many folks it becomes the favorite feature of all.

How to use it

1. **Press and hold** the Siri button (the small button on the right side of the remote).
2. While holding, speak naturally: "Open Netflix," "Find movies with Tom Hanks," "Show me the news," "Skip ahead ten minutes," or "What did she just say?"
3. Let go of the button. The box does what you asked.

Things worth asking

- **"Open [app name]"** — jumps straight into Netflix, YouTube, and so on, no hunting.
- **"Find [actor, show, or type]"** — searches everywhere at once for what you describe.
- **"Turn on captions"** or **"What did they say?"** — the second one jumps back fifteen seconds and briefly turns on captions. Wonderful for a mumbled line.
- **"Pause," "Play," "Skip back,"** and plain questions like **"What's the weather?"**

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Speaking a request skips the slowest part of any streaming box — typing a show's name letter by letter with a remote. "Open Netflix" or "Find Westerns" gets you there in two seconds and a sentence. If small print and endless scrolling are the hard part, Siri hands you a shortcut around most of it.

If Siri doesn't understand you

Now and then Siri mishears — a name, a mumble, a noisy room. No harm done. Press the Siri button and try again, a little slower and plainer. It helps to say the *kind* of thing you want ("open the Netflix app," "find John Wayne movies") rather than a half-sentence. And if Siri simply isn't cooperating today, you can always fall back to typing in the Search app — the voice button is a shortcut, never the only way.

Losing the remote (it happens to everyone)

This slim remote loves to slip into couch cushions. Two comforts: if you have an iPhone, it can act as a backup Apple TV remote (there's a remote built into the iPhone's Control Center). And a little stick-on holder, or a case with a wrist strap, keeps the remote findable. If yours has vanished for good, the family or I can help you pair a replacement.

PART 4

Getting Around the Home Screen

The Home screen is base camp: a grid of apps you arrange to suit yourself. Here's how to find things, open and close apps, and keep your favorites front and center.

CHAPTER 11

The Home Screen, Explained

Press the **Home** button (the one shaped like a little TV) and you arrive at the Home screen: rows of square **app icons**, each one a service or tool. This is where every session begins and where **Back** and **Home** always return you. Let's get comfortable here.

What an "app" is, on your TV

An **app** (short for application) is just a single-purpose program — think of it as a channel or a shop. There's a Netflix app, a YouTube app, a Weather app, a Settings app. You open one, use it, and come back home. Opening an app can't harm the others; they wait patiently for you.

The top row is special

Whichever apps sit in the **top row** get a little extra: when you highlight one, a large preview of what's inside often appears above. Put your most-used apps up top (we'll do that next) and your favorites greet you the moment you turn on the TV.

> GOOD TO KNOW
>
> **You can't lose an app by leaving it**
>
> When you press Home or Back to leave an app, you're not closing or deleting it — it simply steps aside and remembers where you were. Come back later and it's often right where you left off. Moving around freely costs you nothing.

CHAPTER 12

Opening, Leaving, and Arranging Apps

Three small skills cover almost all of day-to-day life on the Home screen.

Opening an app

Steer the highlight onto the app you want and press the **center** of the clickpad. It opens. That's it. To come back out, press **Home** (straight to the grid) or **Back** (one step at a time).

Rearranging apps so your favorites come first

Put the apps you use most where they're easy to reach:

1. Highlight the app you want to move.
2. Press and **hold** the center of the clickpad until the icon begins to **jiggle**.
3. Now press the clickpad edges to **slide** the jiggling app to a new spot — up to the top row, say.
4. Press the center once more to drop it in place and stop the jiggling.

> **TIP**
>
> **Put your three favorites in the top row**
>
> Spend two minutes moving the apps you actually watch — maybe Netflix, YouTube, and your local PBS app — up into the top row. From then on they're the first thing you see, and you'll rarely have to go hunting. It's the single tidiest improvement you can make.

Making a folder (optional)

If apps pile up, you can group several into a **folder** — like a drawer. While an app is jiggling (from the steps above), slide it directly on top of another app, and the two tuck into a folder together. Handy for "News" or "Games," but entirely optional; many folks never bother, and that's fine.

CHAPTER 13

The Apple TV App — One Place to Find Shows

Among your apps is one simply called **Apple TV** (its icon is a little TV outline). Remember from Chapter 2 that this is the *app*, not the box and not the subscription. It's worth knowing because it tries to pull many services together into one tidy place to browse.

What it gathers

- Apple's own shows and movies (the ones the paid Apple subscription unlocks).
- Movies and shows you **rent or buy** from Apple.
- A **Watch Now** area that suggests things and remembers what you've started, so you can pick up where you left off.
- Some other services you subscribe to, shown right alongside, so you don't always have to open each app separately.

"Up Next" — your bookmark

The Apple TV app keeps an **Up Next** list: shows you're partway through or want to watch. Highlight something and hold the center button to add it to Up Next. It's like a bookmark for the television, so you never have to remember "now where was I?"

GOOD TO KNOW

You don't have to use it

The Apple TV app is a convenience, not a toll booth. If you'd rather just open Netflix or YouTube directly from the Home screen and watch, that works perfectly. Think of the Apple TV app as an optional "what's on?" guide you can lean on when you want ideas.

PART 5

Getting Your Streaming Services

How to add Netflix, YouTube, and the rest from the App Store, sign in to each, and understand what you're paying for — plus how to keep from paying for things by accident.

CHAPTER 14

Installing an App from the App Store

Your box comes with a few apps, but you'll want to add your own — Netflix, YouTube, a news app, your local library's app, and so on. They come from the **App Store**, a free shop built into the box. Most apps are free to install (you pay the service separately, if at all).

Step by step

1. From the Home screen, open the **App Store** (its icon is a blue circle with a white letter "A" drawn from a brush and ruler).
2. Highlight the **Search** tab at the top and press center.
3. Type the app's name — or better, hold the **Siri** button and simply say it, for example "Netflix."
4. Highlight the correct app in the results and press center to open its page.
5. Choose **Get** (for free apps) or the price. Confirm if asked. The app downloads and a progress circle fills; when it's done, it appears on your Home screen.

> HEADS UP
>
> **Get the real app, and mind look-alikes**
>
> Install the official app made by the actual service (Netflix by Netflix, YouTube by Google, and so on). If two similar names appear, the genuine one is usually the most-downloaded, with the familiar logo. When in doubt, don't guess — a quick call to me settles it.

"Get" asks for a password — that's normal

The box may ask for your **Apple Account password** before it installs, even for a free app. That's a safety check to confirm it's you, not a charge. Typing it (or approving on a nearby iPhone) is expected. If a *free* app ever seems to ask for a *payment*, stop and look again — free should mean free.

CHAPTER 15

Signing In to Each Service

Here's the part that catches people: installing the Netflix app is *not* the same as having Netflix. The app is just the doorway; you still sign in with your **account for that service** — the email and password you (or a family member) set up with Netflix itself.

The general routine

1. Open the newly installed app (Netflix, say).
2. It shows a **Sign In** screen. Enter the email and password for *that service* (not your Apple Account — the service's own login).
3. Many apps offer an easier path: they show a **code** and a web address, asking you to go to that address on your phone or computer and type the code. This saves you typing a long password with the remote.
4. Once signed in, the app remembers you. You won't sign in again unless you sign out or reset the box.

> **TIP**
>
> **The "activate on your phone" trick is your friend**
>
> When an app shows a short code and a web address like "netflix.com/tv," that's the easy road: open that address on your phone or computer, log in there, type the code, and the TV signs itself in. Far gentler than pecking out a password on screen. Use it whenever it's offered.

"I don't have an account for that service"

If you've never signed up for, say, Netflix, then installing the app won't let you watch — you'd need to subscribe to Netflix first (on their website or through the app). Some services are free and need no account at all (YouTube, PBS, many local-channel apps). It's worth knowing which of your services you actually pay for, so there are no surprises.

CHAPTER 16

Subscriptions — What You're Paying For

Streaming services mostly work on **monthly subscriptions**: a set fee each month for all-you-can-watch, which you can cancel any time. Keeping a clear head about what you're subscribed to saves both money and worry.

Two ways you might be billed

- **Directly by the service:** you pay Netflix, Hulu, and so on through their own account — a charge on your card from them each month.
- **Through Apple:** some subscriptions are bought right on the box and billed by Apple to your Apple Account. These are the easiest to see and cancel in one place.

Seeing and cancelling Apple-billed subscriptions

To review subscriptions billed through Apple, go to **Settings** > **Users and Accounts** > your account > **Subscriptions** (the exact path can shift slightly with updates). There you can see what's active and **cancel** anything you no longer want — the service keeps running until the period you've paid for ends, then simply stops billing.

STAY SAFE

Avoid paying for something twice

It's surprisingly easy to end up paying for the same service two ways — once directly and once through Apple. Once or twice a year, it's worth checking your subscriptions here, and your card statement, so you're only paying for what you actually watch. I'm glad to sit down and go through this with you; it often saves folks real money.

A note on renting and buying movies

Renting or buying a film charges your Apple Account there and then. A **rental** is usually yours to watch for a limited window (often 48 hours once you start); a **purchase** stays in your library. To avoid buying by accident, you can require a password for every purchase (Settings > Users and Accounts > your account), which is a sensible safeguard.

PART 6

Finding and Watching Shows

Searching across everything at once, the controls while something's playing, turning on captions, and the little habits that make an evening of watching effortless.

CHAPTER 17

Finding Something to Watch

The best thing about the Apple TV box is that you don't have to remember which service has which show. You can search across many of them at once, or simply ask out loud.

Just ask

The quickest search is your voice. Hold the **Siri** button and say what you're after: a show's name ("find Jeopardy"), an actor ("movies with Meryl Streep"), or a mood ("funny movies," "nature documentaries"). The results gather titles from across your apps, telling you where each one lives.

Searching by typing

Prefer to type? Open the **Search** app (a magnifying-glass icon) or the Search tab inside the Apple TV app, and spell out what you want on the on-screen keyboard. It's slower than speaking, but perfectly fine, and it shows the same gather-everything results.

Browsing for ideas

When you don't have anything particular in mind, open the **Apple TV** app's **Watch Now**, or just open a service you like (Netflix, YouTube) and scroll its rows of suggestions. Highlighting a title usually shows a description so you can decide before committing.

TIP

"Where can I watch…" is a great question for Siri

If a friend recommends a show and you've no idea which service has it, hold Siri and ask "Where can I watch [show name]?" The box tells you which of your apps carries it — saving you from opening each one to hunt.

CHAPTER 18

The Controls While You're Watching

Once a show is playing, a few simple moves cover everything — pausing for a cup of tea, rewinding a line you missed, or jumping ahead past a slow bit.

To do this…	Do this
Pause / Play	Press the **Play/Pause** button, or press the center of the clickpad. Press again to resume.
Rewind or skip ahead	While playing, click the clickpad's **left edge** to jump back about ten seconds, or the **right edge** to jump ahead. Or swipe along the clickpad to scrub to a spot.
See where you are	Press the center or swipe down slightly to show the progress bar — a line showing how far through you are and how much remains.
"What did they say?"	Hold Siri and ask exactly that; the box hops back fifteen seconds and flashes captions for the line you missed.
Stop watching	Press **Back** to leave the show (it remembers your spot), or **Home** to return to the Home screen.

GOOD TO KNOW

It remembers where you stopped

Leave a show partway through and come back hours or days later — most apps drop you right back where you paused, or offer a "Resume" button. You rarely have to go searching for your spot. Watch a little, live your life, return when you like.

CHAPTER 19

Captions, Subtitles, and Clearer Sound

If dialogue is ever hard to catch — and modern shows are notorious for mumbling — the Apple TV has good help. Turning on **captions** (the words printed at the bottom of the screen) makes a world of difference.

Turning captions on

- **The fast way:** hold the **Siri** button and say "Turn on closed captions" (or "subtitles"). Say "Turn off captions" to switch them off.
- **Inside a show:** swipe down on the clickpad while playing to reveal options, and choose **Subtitles** or **Closed Captions**, then the language.

Making captions bigger and easier to read

You can enlarge the caption text and give it a backing so it stands out. Go to **Settings** > **Accessibility** > **Subtitles and Captioning** > **Style**, and pick a larger, bolder style. Set it once and every show uses it.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Captions turn "I can't quite make out what they're saying" into comfortable, relaxed watching — no constant rewinding, no cranking the volume past what the neighbors appreciate. For anyone hard of hearing, they're the difference between enjoying a show and giving up on it.

Clearer speech and headphones

Some apps offer a sound setting that boosts voices over background music; look in a show's audio options. And if you'd rather not disturb anyone, Apple TV can send sound privately to **AirPods or compatible headphones** — a boon for late-night watching or sharper hearing. A family member or I can pair those for you once.

PART 7

The Delightful Extras

Sending your phone's screen to the TV, your own photos as a screen saver, music through the television, and gathering the family for a FaceTime call on the big screen.

CHAPTER 20

AirPlay — Your Phone on the Big Screen

AirPlay is a lovely trick: it sends whatever's on your iPhone or iPad — a video, photos, a webpage — up onto the television through your Apple TV box. No cables, nothing to install; it just needs both devices on the same home Wi-Fi.

Sending a video or photo to the TV

1. On your iPhone or iPad, open the video or photo you want to show.
2. Look for the **AirPlay** symbol — a rectangle with a small triangle at its base — and tap it. (In many apps it's a **Share** button first, then AirPlay.)
3. Choose your **Apple TV** from the short list that appears.
4. It leaps onto the television. To stop, tap AirPlay again and choose your phone, or just close the video.

Mirroring your whole screen

To show *everything* on your phone — to demonstrate something, or share a slideshow — use **Screen Mirroring**: swipe to open your phone's Control Center, tap **Screen Mirroring**, and pick your Apple TV. Your phone's screen appears on the TV until you stop mirroring.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

AirPlay turns the biggest screen in the house into a window onto your phone. Show the whole room a grandchild's video, this week's photos, or a recipe video while you cook — no squinting at a small screen, no passing the phone around the couch.

GOOD TO KNOW

The first time, it may ask for a code

The very first time a phone connects to your Apple TV, the TV may show a four-digit code to type on the phone — a one-time safety handshake so only your devices connect. After that, it's just a tap. Nothing to set up in advance.

Why AirPlay sometimes doesn't appear

If the AirPlay symbol or your Apple TV's name won't show up on your phone, it's almost always one simple thing: the phone and the Apple TV must be on the **same Wi-Fi network**.

If your home has two network names (some do), make sure both devices are on the same one. A quick restart of the phone, or stepping closer to the Wi-Fi, clears up most of the rest. It's rarely anything you did wrong.

CHAPTER 21

Your Photos and Screen Savers

When the Apple TV sits idle, it shows beautiful slow-moving screen savers. You can also make it show **your own photos** — a gentle, ever-changing display of your memories whenever the TV isn't busy.

Showing your own photos

If your photos live in iCloud (Apple's photo storage, tied to your Apple Account), the Apple TV can draw from them. Go to **Settings** > **Screen Savers** (or General > Screen Saver), choose a photo source such as **My Photos** or a shared album, and the idle screen becomes your own gallery.

Watching photos on purpose

You can also open the **Photos** app on the box, or AirPlay an album from your iPhone (Chapter 20), to sit and enjoy a trip's pictures together on the big screen — far nicer than crowding around a phone.

> **TIP**
>
> ### A shared album the whole family fills
>
> Ask a tech-comfortable family member to set up a **shared photo album** that everyone adds to. Point your Apple TV's screen saver at it, and your television quietly shows the newest family photos all on its own — new grandchildren pictures appearing like magic. A real joy, and no effort once it's set.

CHAPTER 22

Music and Radio Through the TV

Your Apple TV isn't only for watching — it plays music and radio through your television's speakers (or a sound bar), which often sound fuller than a phone.

- Open a music app — **Apple Music**, or install **Pandora**, **Spotify**, **SiriusXM**, or your favorite — and play from the couch.
- Hold **Siri** and ask: "Play some Frank Sinatra," "Play the oldies station," "Play relaxing music."
- Many local and national **radio** stations have free apps, so you can listen to the station you've always loved right through the TV.

GOOD TO KNOW

Music keeps playing while you tidy up

Start some music, press **Home**, and it keeps playing while you do other things on the box — or just leave the TV on for background music while you putter around the house. A pleasant, underused trick.

CHAPTER 23

FaceTime on the Big Screen

One of the most heartwarming things a newer Apple TV can do is host a **FaceTime** video call right on your television — the whole family gathered on the couch, the grandkids filling the big screen instead of a little phone. It uses your **iPhone or iPad as the camera** (the TV box has no camera of its own).

What you need

- A recent Apple TV box (this feature arrived on newer models and tvOS versions).
- An **iPhone or iPad** with a camera, on the same Wi-Fi, propped facing the couch (a small stand helps).
- The people you're calling, reachable on FaceTime as usual.

Starting a call

1. Open the **FaceTime** app on the Apple TV.
2. It asks to use a nearby iPhone or iPad as the camera — choose your device and follow the prompt to connect it (your phone may ask you to confirm).
3. Pick the person or group to call, just like a normal FaceTime, and start.
4. Prop the phone so it sees everyone, settle onto the couch, and enjoy — their face is now on the whole TV.

> **FROM BILL**
>
> **This one's worth a practice run with me**
>
> FaceTime on the TV is magical when it works, but it has a few moving parts — the right box, the phone as camera, the Wi-Fi. If you'd like to use it for a holiday or a birthday, call me beforehand at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll get it working calmly ahead of time, so the big day is all smiles and no fiddling.

PART 8

Streaming, Explained — What's What and What's Worth It

A plain-English tour of the popular services, the free television many folks overlook, how to keep the monthly bills sensible, and watching live news and sports.

CHAPTER 24

A Friendly Tour of the Popular Services

When people say "what should I watch on?" the answer is a short list of services, each an app on your box. You don't need all of them — most folks keep one or two. Here's a plain-English tour so the names stop being a mystery. (Prices change and vary, so I'll describe what each *is* rather than quote a figure.)

Service	In plain English, what it is
Netflix	A huge library of shows and movies for a monthly fee. The one most households start with.
Prime Video	Comes with an Amazon Prime membership; lots of movies and series, plus things to rent or buy.
Apple TV (the service)	Apple's own original shows and movies — the subscription we untangled in Chapter 2 (once called Apple TV+).
Disney+	Disney, Pixar, Marvel, Star Wars, and family films — a favorite when grandchildren visit.
Hulu	Current network shows (often the next day) plus a movie library.
Max	Movies and series from Warner Bros. and HBO's well-known dramas.
Peacock	NBC shows, classic series, and some live sports and news.
YouTube	Free videos on every subject under the sun — how-to clips, old clips, church services, music. No subscription needed.

GOOD TO KNOW

You subscribe to the service, not the box

Each of these is its own separate subscription (or free, like YouTube), paid to that company — the Apple TV box just gives them all a home. Installing an app is free; whether you pay depends on the service. Pick the one or two that carry what you actually watch and ignore the rest.

CHAPTER 25

The Free Television Many People Miss

Here's a happy secret: a great deal of television costs nothing at all. Before paying for more subscriptions, it's worth knowing about the free apps — many folks are delighted by how much is there.

Free, no-account apps

- **YouTube** — endless free videos: how-to guides, old television clips, music, travel, cooking, full church services, and more.
- **Tubi**, **Pluto TV**, and **The Roku Channel** — free movies and shows paid for by a few commercials, just like old-fashioned TV. No subscription, no card.
- **PBS** and the **PBS KIDS** apps — much-loved programs, documentaries, and children's shows, free.
- Your **local TV stations** and **news** often have their own free apps.

Your library card is a streaming pass

Many public libraries offer free movies and shows through apps like **Kanopy** or **Hoopla** — all you need is your library card number. It's one of the best-kept secrets in streaming, and your library staff are happy to help you sign up.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this does for you

Between YouTube, the free ad-supported apps, PBS, and your library card, you can fill many a pleasant evening without paying a single subscription. Start here before adding paid services — you may find you need fewer of them than you'd thought.

CHAPTER 26

Keeping the Monthly Bills Sensible

Subscriptions are easy to collect and easy to forget. A little tending keeps your streaming enjoyable without quietly draining the bank account. None of this is about pinching pennies — just about paying only for what you actually watch.

The rotate trick

You can **cancel and re-subscribe** to a service any time — your account simply pauses. Many folks keep one service for a month or two, watch the shows they wanted, cancel it, and move to another. Because there's no contract, you're never locked in. Watch the season you love, then set it aside till next time.

Check what you're paying for

- Once or twice a year, look at the **Subscriptions** list (Settings > Users and Accounts > your account > Subscriptions) for anything billed through Apple.
- Glance at your **card or bank statement** for streaming charges you don't recognize or no longer use.
- Watch for **free trials** that quietly turn into paid subscriptions after a month — set a reminder to cancel before the trial ends if you don't want to keep it.

FROM BILL

I'm glad to do a subscription check-up with you

Going through what you're subscribed to — and trimming what you've stopped watching — often saves folks real money, and it's a calm, no-pressure thing we can do together. Give me a ring at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll make sure every dollar is buying something you actually enjoy.

CHAPTER 27

Live News, Sports, and "Regular" TV

Streaming isn't only old movies on demand — you can watch **live** television too: the evening news, a ballgame, your favorite daytime shows as they air. Here's the lay of the land.

Live news

- Many news channels have **free apps** with a live stream — national and often your local stations.
- The free apps like **Pluto TV** and **The Roku Channel** carry live news channels too.
- Hold **Siri** and say "Watch the news" to jump to what's available.

Sports

Sports are scattered across services — some games land on Peacock, Prime Video, Apple's own service, or league apps (like the MLB or NFL apps). If there's a team you follow, it's worth a quick check of which service carries them before a big game. Ask Siri "Where can I watch [team]?" or give me a call and we'll find it together.

Replacing cable entirely (optional)

If you'd like *all* your live channels without a cable box, there are "live TV" services — such as **YouTube TV**, **Hulu + Live TV**, or **Sling** — that stream the regular channels over the internet for a monthly fee. They can replace cable for some households, but they're a bigger decision; it's a perfect thing to talk through together before signing up.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **You don't have to give up cable to use Apple TV**
>
> Plenty of folks keep their cable or antenna for live channels *and* use the Apple TV box for streaming — switching between them with the TV's Input button. There's no rule that one replaces the other; use whatever mix suits you.

CHAPTER 28

Better Sound (If You Want It)

Flat-screen televisions are wonderfully thin, but that leaves little room for speakers, so voices can sound small or muffled. If sound is a struggle, a few options help — none required, all optional.

A soundbar — the easy upgrade

A **soundbar** is a slim speaker that sits in front of or below the television and makes everything fuller and clearer, especially voices. It connects to the TV with a single cable, and once it's set up, your Apple remote's volume buttons usually control it. For many folks, a soundbar does more for enjoyment than any setting.

Headphones for private listening

If you watch while others sleep, or you hear better with sound close to your ears, Apple TV can send audio privately to **AirPods or compatible wireless headphones** — no one else is disturbed, and you can set the volume exactly where you like it. A family member or I can pair those for you once.

> TIP
>
> **Turn on "enhance dialogue" if your setup offers it**
>
> Some soundbars and TVs have a setting with a name like "speech," "voice," or "dialogue enhancement" that lifts voices above music and effects. If mumbling is your main gripe, that setting — plus captions from Chapter 19 — can transform your evenings.

PART 9

Settings, Comfort, Upkeep & Staying Safe

Making everything easier to see and hear, keeping the box healthy, fixing the common hiccups, and knowing the one or two scams to brush aside with confidence.

CHAPTER 29

Making It Easier to See and Hear

Your Apple TV can bend to suit your eyes and ears. A few minutes in Settings makes every evening more comfortable. All of these live under **Settings** (the gear icon) > **Accessibility**.

For…	Where to look
Bigger, bolder text	Accessibility > Bold Text, and look for text-size options, so menus are easier to read.
VoiceOver	Has the TV speak aloud what you highlight — a help for very low vision. It changes how the remote works, so turn it on with someone the first time.
Zoom	Magnifies part of the screen. Handy occasionally; practice turning it off too so it never traps you.
Increase Contrast / Reduce Motion	Sharpens edges and calms animations for a clearer, steadier picture.
Captions	Subtitles and Captioning > Style — larger, bolder on-screen words (also covered in Chapter 19).

TIP

Set it up with a helper the first time

Some accessibility settings — VoiceOver especially — change how the remote behaves, which can be disorienting if you're not expecting it. The first time, do it alongside a family member or give me a ring, so you learn how to switch each one on *and* back off. After that you're in full control.

CHAPTER 30

Keeping the Box Healthy

An Apple TV asks almost nothing of you. A little understanding of updates and restarts keeps it running smoothly for years.

Let it update itself

Apple sends free **software updates** that add features and fix problems. The easiest course is to let them install automatically: **Settings** > **System** > **Software Updates** > turn on **Update Automatically**. The box then quietly updates itself overnight.

The restart cure

If the box ever acts oddly — an app won't open, the picture freezes, something seems stuck — the oldest trick still works best: **restart it**. Go to **Settings** > **System** > **Restart**, or simply unplug the box's power for ten seconds and plug it back in. It clears up a remarkable number of mysteries and can't harm a thing.

GOOD TO KNOW

Why an app sometimes looks different

After an update, a button may move or a menu may be renamed. That's not you doing anything wrong — it's the makers tidying up. This book describes *what* to do rather than the exact spot of every button today, so it stays useful even as the screens evolve.

CHAPTER 31

When Something Goes Wrong

Here are the hiccups nearly everyone meets, with the calm fix for each. Work down the list; the answer is almost always near the top.

"The TV screen is black / says No Signal"

- Make sure the television is set to the right **input** (HDMI number) — this is the most common cause by far. Use the TV's own remote, press Input/Source, and pick the right HDMI (Chapter 5).
- Check the HDMI cable is firmly pushed in at both ends, and the box's power cord is plugged in.
- Give the box a moment to wake — press a button on the Apple remote.

"It's frozen or very slow"

- Restart the box (Chapter 25) — unplug power for ten seconds, plug back in.
- If several apps are slow, your **internet** may be having a moment; check that other devices have Wi-Fi.

"The remote won't work"

- The remote may simply need **charging** — plug it in with a charging cable for a while (newer remotes recharge like a phone).
- Re-pair it: hold the **Back** and **volume up** buttons together near the box for a few seconds.
- In a pinch, use the Apple TV remote built into your iPhone's Control Center.

"An app won't play or keeps buffering"

- "Buffering" (the spinning circle) means the internet is feeding the show too slowly — usually a Wi-Fi matter. Moving the box closer to the Wi-Fi router, or the router nearer the TV, often helps.
- Close and reopen the app; if it persists, restart the box.

TIP

The two fixes that solve most things

Nine times out of ten, a stuck Apple TV is cured by either **switching the TV to the right HDMI input** or **restarting the box** (unplug ten seconds, plug back in). Try those before anything fancier — and if they don't do it, that's a fine time to call me.

CHAPTER 32

Staying Safe — The Few Scams to Know

Watching shows is wonderfully safe. The only thing to keep an eye on isn't the box — it's the occasional scammer who uses email, texts, and pop-ups to trick people about their subscriptions and accounts. Know these patterns and you can relax entirely.

SCAM ALERT

"Your subscription has expired — renew now"

An email or text claims your Apple TV, Netflix, or Apple account subscription "failed" or "expired" and urges you to click a link and "update your payment" right away. It's a trick to steal your card and password. **Don't click.** If you want to check a subscription, open the app or Settings on the box yourself — never through a link someone sent you.

SCAM ALERT

"Apple Support" calling about your account

A caller or pop-up claims to be Apple (or Netflix) "support," says there's a problem with your account, and wants your password, a code, or remote access to "fix" it. **Apple does not call you this way.** Hang up or close it. Real companies don't phone out of the blue demanding passwords or control of your devices.

Three habits that keep you safe

- **Never click "renew" or "verify" links** in unexpected emails or texts about subscriptions. Check inside the actual app instead.
- **Never give your Apple Account password or a verification code** to someone who contacted you. Those codes are keys to your account.
- **When unsure, pause and ask.** A quick call to a trusted family member — or to me — before you click or pay has saved many people real trouble. There's no shame in checking; it's the smart move.

FROM BILL

These calls are exactly what I'm here for

If a message or call about your account or a subscription ever makes you uneasy, stop and ring me *before* you click or pay anything: **(330) 200-8042**. Those "is this real?" questions are never a bother — they're the whole reason I do this work, and there's never a charge for asking.

PART 10

Living With It Day to Day

The small comforts of everyday use: sharing the TV with the household, a few fun extras beyond shows, sensible sleep and energy habits, and quick answers to the questions folks ask most.

CHAPTER 33

Sharing the TV With the Household

A television is a shared thing, and your Apple TV can suit more than one person. A little setup keeps everyone's shows and suggestions from getting tangled together.

Separate profiles inside the apps

Most streaming apps (Netflix especially) let each person have their own **profile** — usually a name and a little picture you pick when the app opens. Each profile keeps its own "continue watching" list and its own suggestions, so your westerns don't get muddled with a grandchild's cartoons. When an app asks "who's watching?", just choose yours.

More than one person on the box

The Apple TV box itself can hold more than one person's account, so a couple can each see their own Apple purchases and Up Next list. It's set under **Settings** > **Users and Accounts**. For most households one account is plenty — add a second only if you both want your own separate watchlists.

GOOD TO KNOW

Grandchildren visiting? Let them pick their profile

When the little ones come over, having a **kids' profile** in Netflix or a separate **Disney+** app means they see only child-friendly shows, and your grown-up suggestions stay yours. It's a tidy way to keep everyone happy and the recommendations sensible.

CHAPTER 34

A Few Fun Extras Beyond Shows

Your Apple TV can do a handful of pleasant things that aren't watching television at all. None is essential — think of this as a little grab-bag of nice surprises.

Simple games

The App Store has games you can play on the TV — crosswords, card games, puzzles, trivia. Some are free; some come with a subscription called **Apple Arcade**. A few simple games can be a gentle bit of fun, and the grandchildren may enjoy a round of something together on the big screen.

Fitness and gentle exercise

There are apps with guided walks, stretching, chair exercises, and gentle workouts you can follow along with on the television — a pleasant way to move a little without leaving the living room. Some are free; others are part of a subscription. Browse the App Store's health section to see what appeals.

The weather, and just asking questions

Hold the **Siri** button and ask "What's the weather?" or "Will it rain tomorrow?" and the answer appears right on the TV. You can ask simple questions — a sports score, the time in another city — the same way, without opening anything.

TIP

Explore the App Store with no worry

Browsing the App Store and installing **free** apps costs nothing and can't hurt the box. If something looks interesting, try it; if you don't care for it, you can remove it later. Just keep an eye out for the word "free" versus a price, so nothing's bought by surprise.

CHAPTER 35

Sleep, Energy, and Everyday Habits

A few small habits keep your Apple TV tidy, save a little electricity, and mean it's always ready when you want it.

Does it need turning off?

Not really. The Apple TV box is designed to be left plugged in; it slips into a low-power **sleep** on its own after a while, and wakes the instant you press a button. You don't have to shut it down each night — just turn off the television as usual, and the box rests by itself.

Putting it to sleep on purpose

- Press and **hold** the **Home** button (the TV-shaped one), then choose **Sleep**.
- Or set it to sleep automatically after a chosen time: **Settings** > **General** > **Sleep After**.

The screen saver is your friend

If you pause a show and wander off, the box eventually shows its screen saver instead of a frozen picture — which is gentler on the television and pleasant to glance at (especially set to your own photos, from Chapter 21). Press any button to wake it and carry on.

GOOD TO KNOW

Leaving it on won't wear it out

You can't harm the Apple TV by leaving it plugged in and asleep — that's exactly how it's meant to live. There's no bulb to burn out and nothing that wears from resting. Treat it like the clock on the wall: always there, quietly ready.

CHAPTER 36

Questions Folks Ask Most

A grab-bag of the questions I hear most often, with short, plain answers. If yours isn't here, it's a fine one to call about.

Question	Short answer
Do I need the paid Apple subscription?	No. The box works for Netflix, YouTube, free apps, and everything else without it. Apple's own subscription is just one optional extra.
Why is my show asking me to sign in again?	Occasionally an app signs you out after an update. Just sign back in (the phone-code trick from Chapter 15 makes it painless).
Can I watch my local channels?	Often yes — many local stations and news have free apps; and free apps like Pluto TV carry live channels. You can also keep cable/antenna alongside the box.
Is it safe to leave it plugged in?	Completely. It's built to stay plugged in and sleep on its own.
The picture quality looks low — why?	Usually the internet is briefly slow ("buffering"). It typically sharpens up after a moment, or after moving the box closer to the Wi-Fi.
Can two TVs share one Apple TV box?	No — each television needs its own box. But all your boxes can use the same Apple Account and apps.
How do I remove an app I don't use?	Highlight it on the Home screen, hold the center button until it jiggles, press the Play/Pause button, and choose Delete. It can be reinstalled free any time.

FROM BILL

No question is too small

If something about your Apple TV puzzles you and it's not in this book, that's not a gap in you — it's just a question we haven't gotten to yet. Call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll sort it out together, as plainly and patiently as it takes.

PART 11

Your Cheat-Sheet & When to Call Bill

The one-page reminders to keep by the remote, and an honest word about when a call to me is the right move. You're ready to enjoy it.

CHAPTER 37

The Everyday Cheat-Sheet

Keep this by the couch. It's the handful of things that cover nearly every evening with your Apple TV.

Turning it on and watching

To…	Do this
Nothing on screen?	Use the TV's own remote: press Input/Source, choose the right HDMI number.
Go home	Press the Home button (shaped like a little TV) on the Apple remote.
Open an app	Highlight it, press the center of the clickpad.
Step back / escape	Press Back. Lost? Press Home to return to the main screen.
Find a show fast	Hold the Siri button and say it: "Open Netflix," "Find Westerns," "Play the news."
Pause / play	Press Play/Pause, or the center of the clickpad.
Missed a line	Hold Siri and say "What did they say?" — it jumps back and shows captions.
Captions on/off	Hold Siri: "Turn on captions" / "Turn off captions."

The remote, at a glance

Button	What it does
Clickpad (top circle)	Press the edges to move; press the center to choose. Or swipe gently.
Back	Steps out of where you are — your escape hatch.
Home (TV shape)	Jumps to the Home screen. Hold to sleep the box.
Siri (side button)	Hold and speak a request.
Volume (right edge)	Turns the TV sound up and down.

The two fixes that solve most trouble

- **Black screen / No Signal** → set the TV to the correct HDMI input with the TV's own remote.
- **Frozen, slow, or stuck** → restart the box: unplug its power for ten seconds, plug back in.

The golden safety rule

STAY SAFE

Never click "renew" links or give out passwords and codes

No real company emails or calls out of the blue demanding you "renew" through a link or hand over your password or a verification code. Check subscriptions inside the app yourself, and when in doubt, call Bill before you click or pay.

CHAPTER 38

When to Call Bill

This book will carry you a long way, and most evenings you won't need anyone's help at all. But you're never stuck alone — that's simply not how I do things. Here's an honest word about when picking up the phone is the right move, so you never feel you're imposing.

Good reasons to call — none of them silly

- You've got a **new Apple TV** and want it set up properly — plugged in, on Wi-Fi, your apps installed and signed in — without the fuss.
- You want to **watch a particular service** (Netflix, your local channels, a sport) and aren't sure how to add it or sign in.
- You'd like **FaceTime on the TV** working ahead of a holiday or birthday, with a calm practice run first.
- The picture keeps **freezing or buffering** and the simple fixes haven't cured it — it may be a Wi-Fi matter worth looking at together.
- You got an email, text, or call about a **subscription or your account** that felt wrong. Always check with me *before* you click or pay.
- You just want someone to **sit with you**, in plain English and no rushing, while you get the hang of it. That's the whole job, and I love it.

How to reach me

I'm Bill, and I run **Bill's Home Tech** right here in Portage County, Ohio. I've spent 30+ years helping people feel at ease with their technology, and getting folks comfortably watching what they love — and seeing family on the big screen — is a favorite part of the work.

Phone	(330) 200-8042 — call or text. If I can't pick up, leave a message and I'll call you back.
Book a visit online	billshometech.com/book
Where I work	Portage County, Ohio, and the nearby communities.
If you visit the website	You may chat with Sophie, my friendly assistant on the site, who can help you book a time to talk.

FROM BILL

My standing offer

If anything in this book — or anything your Apple TV does — ever puzzles you, pick up the phone. No question is too small and no problem too silly. I'll come out, or talk you through it, as plainly and patiently as it takes. Seeing someone settle in with a show they love, or watch a grandchild's face fill the television for the first time, never gets old. That's why I do this.

— Bill · Bill's Home Tech · (330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

A few parting words

Here's the truth to carry away from all these pages: **there is no such thing as a dumb question.** The people I help are smart, capable folks who simply weren't handed a manual that spoke plainly. Now you have one.

Don't feel you must learn it all at once — you never will, and you don't need to. Pick one small thing this week: find the right input, open one app, watch one show. Next week, try asking Siri to find something. Before long it's second nature, and the biggest screen in your house becomes the easiest. **You're going to do just fine.**

— Bill