BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Camera Subscriptions Compared

Ring, Nest, Arlo, Blink, Wyze and eufy plans side by side, and how to keep saved video without overpaying

Know what you're paying for, and what's free

Take your time — you can't break it

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

U.S. plans and prices checked November 2026 · prices change, so confirm before you buy

What's Inside

This is your guide to security camera and video doorbell subscriptions. Read it in any order and at your own pace — there is no test, and you can't fall behind. Jump straight to your brand in Part 2, see what's free in Part 3, do the math in Part 4, and cancel or downgrade with Part 5. Every price was checked against the company's own pages in November 2026.

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PART 1

Start Here

What a camera subscription really pays for, the handful of words every plan page uses, and the five questions that make the whole decision easy. Read this part first and the rest falls into place.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. If you've opened this manual, chances are a security camera or video doorbell is already watching your front porch, and now an email or a pop-up in the app is asking you to start paying every month. Maybe the free trial just ran out. Maybe your renewal price went up and you're wondering if it's worth it. Or maybe you're shopping for a camera and want to know the real cost before you buy. Whatever brought you here, you're in the right place.

I'm Bill. I've spent more than 30 years helping people with their technology, and these days I help families all over Portage County, Ohio, get their homes set up and running smoothly. The question "Do I really need to pay for this camera plan?" comes up all the time. It deserves a calm, honest answer, and that's what this manual is for.

What this manual covers

We'll look at the six camera brands people ask about most: **Ring**, **Google Nest**, **Arlo**, **Blink**, **Wyze** and **eufy**. For each one you'll see what the plans are called, what they cost in November 2026, what they add, and, just as important, what your camera already does for free. Then we'll do the math together, look at storing video at home with no monthly fee, and walk through canceling or downgrading step by step.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

What this manual does for you

By the end you'll know exactly what you're paying for, whether you need it, and how to stop paying for anything you don't. Many households can save real money each year just by picking the right plan, or by choosing a camera that stores video at home.

The big promise: you can't break anything

Looking at plans, starting a trial, or even canceling a subscription won't damage your camera. Your camera keeps working either way. The worst that happens is you lose some saved video, and I'll show you how to save anything important first. So take your time and read at your own pace.

GOOD TO KNOW

Prices change, so check before you pay

Every price in this manual was checked against the company's own pages in November 2026. Camera companies change their prices and plan names fairly often (several did in the past year). Before you buy, take one more look at the price inside the app or on the company's website.

And you're never stuck alone. If you'd like a second opinion on which plan makes sense for your home, call me at **(330) 200-8042**. There's no such thing as a silly question.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Camera Subscription Actually Buys You

Here's the single most useful thing to understand before you spend a dime: **a subscription doesn't turn your camera on.** Your camera already works the day you set it up. You can look through it live from your phone and get an alert when it sees motion. The subscription adds things *on top* of that.

The three things you're really paying for

What you get	In plain terms
1. Saved video (recordings)	The big one. Without a plan, most cameras let you watch live but don't keep a recording you can go back to later. A plan saves clips of what happened, usually for 14 to 60 days, so you can see who took the package at 2 in the afternoon while you were out.
2. Smarter alerts	Instead of "motion detected" every time a tree branch waves, a plan can tell you "person," "package," "vehicle" or "animal." Some newer plans even write a short description of what happened, like "a delivery driver left a box at the door."
3. Extras	Depending on the brand: an extended warranty, a discount on new cameras, professional monitoring of an alarm system, or a stolen-camera replacement.

What usually works with no plan at all

- **Live view:** open the app and see what the camera sees right now.
- **Motion alerts:** a notification on your phone when something moves.
- **Two-way talk:** speak through the camera or doorbell and hear the person there.
- **Doorbell rings:** your phone (and often a chime) lets you know someone pressed the button.

FROM BILL

The honest bottom line

If you mainly want to see who's at the door when the bell rings, and talk to them, you may not need a subscription at all. If you want to look back at what happened while you were away or asleep, you'll need either a plan or a camera that can save video at home. That one question settles most decisions.

A quick example from Ring

Ring says it plainly on its own website: every Ring camera and doorbell includes Live View, real-time motion alerts, Two-Way Talk, customizable motion zones and Alexa integration at no monthly cost. What you can't do without a plan is record and save video. Ring's own answer to "Can I record video without a Ring plan?" is simply "No." Most brands work the same way, with a couple of important exceptions we'll cover in Part 3.

Checked against Ring's official plan pages and Ring Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 3

Words You'll See on Every Plan Page

Plan pages are full of terms that sound technical but stand for simple ideas. Here they are in one place. Come back to this list whenever a word trips you up.

The word	What it means
Cloud storage	Your videos are saved on the company's computers over the internet, not in your house. You can watch them from anywhere, and a thief can't take them by stealing the camera.
Video history	How far back your saved videos go: "30 days of video history" means clips older than 30 days are deleted automatically to make room.
Event recording	The camera saves a short clip only when something happens (motion, a doorbell press, a sound). This is what most plans include.
24/7 or continuous recording	The camera records every second, all day and night, whether anything happens or not. It needs a camera that's plugged in, and it usually costs more.
Local storage	Video saved on a small memory card, USB stick or hub inside your home instead of in the cloud. Usually no monthly fee.
Smart alerts or AI detection	The camera tells a person from a car, a package or an animal, so you get fewer pointless alerts.
Per-camera plan	Covers one camera or doorbell. Each additional camera needs its own plan.
Whole-home or unlimited plan	One price covers every camera at one address.
Free trial	A no-cost period, usually 30 days, when you first set up a camera. Afterward, features stop or a paid plan begins, depending on the brand and whether you entered a payment card.
Auto-renew	The plan charges you again automatically every month or year until you cancel.
Professional monitoring	Trained people watch for alarm signals around the clock and can call for help. It's usually tied to an alarm system, not just cameras.

TIP

"Event" versus "24/7" is the difference that matters most

Most people are perfectly happy with event recording: a clip each time someone walks up. Continuous 24/7 recording sounds impressive, but it means scrolling through hours of an empty driveway. Unless you have a specific reason, event recording is plenty.

CHAPTER 4

Five Questions to Answer Before You Pay

Grab a pen and a scrap of paper. Answering these five questions takes about five minutes and makes the rest of this manual quick and easy, because you'll know exactly which rows of the price tables apply to you.

1. Which brand are my cameras?

Look at the app you use to see them: Ring, Google Home, Arlo, Blink, Wyze or eufy Security. The camera itself usually has the brand name printed on it, too. Your subscription has to come from the same brand.

2. How many cameras and doorbells do I have?

Count every camera *and* every video doorbell at this address. This number decides whether a one-camera plan or a whole-home plan is cheaper. (We do that math in Part 4.)

3. Do I want to look back at what happened?

If you only care about who's at the door right now, you may not need a plan. If you want to check what happened while you were at church, at the doctor's, or asleep, you need saved video, from a plan or from local storage.

4. How far back do I need to look?

Most people notice a missing package or a dented car within a day or two. A plan with 14 or 30 days of history covers almost everyone. Longer history (60 days) is nice when you travel for weeks at a time.

5. Am I already paying for something?

Check your bank or credit card statement for charges from Ring, Amazon, Google, Arlo, Blink, Wyze, eufy, Apple or Google Play. It's common to find a plan still running for a camera that's been unplugged for years. That's the easiest money you'll ever save.

> **TIP**
>
> **Write your answers down**
>
> Something like: "Ring. One doorbell, two cameras. Yes, look back. A week is plenty. Paying $4.99 a month now." With that one line in hand, you can find your best plan in a few minutes using the tables in Part 2 and Part 4.

Your answer	What it usually points to
One camera or doorbell, want saved video	The brand's one-camera plan, or local storage if your camera supports it
Three or more cameras, want saved video	The brand's whole-home plan is usually cheaper than several single plans
Only want to see and talk to visitors live	No plan needed for most brands
Want saved video but no monthly bill	Blink with a Sync Module and USB drive, a Wyze camera with a microSD card, or a eufy HomeBase
Have a Ring or Arlo alarm and want it monitored	The brand's top plan, which includes professional monitoring

PART 2

Brand by Brand

Ring, Google Nest, Arlo, Blink, Wyze and eufy: what each plan is called today, what it costs, what it adds, and who it suits. Skip straight to your brand, then see them all side by side in the last chapter.

CHAPTER 5

Ring: Solo, Multi and Pro

Ring is owned by Amazon and makes some of the most popular video doorbells and cameras. If you've had Ring for a while, you may remember plan names like **Protect Basic** or **Home Standard**. Ring renamed its plans again in 2026, so let's start with today's names.

The new names (2026)

Ring says its Home plans were renamed **Ring Protect** plans in 2026. Your subscription moved over automatically with the same features, and there was no extra charge for the change. Here's how the old names map to the new ones:

If you had...	It's now called...
Home Basic	Ring Solo
Home Standard (no professional monitoring)	Ring Multi
Home Standard with 24/7 Professional Monitoring	Ring Pro
Home Premium	Premium Legacy (includes 24/7 Professional Monitoring)
AI Pro	Ring Pro
AI Solo	Pro Intelligence (an add-on)

Checked against Ring Help ("Ring subscription plan changes in 2026") on November 13, 2026.

Today's plans and prices

Plan	Price (U.S.)	Covers	What it adds
Ring Solo	$4.99 a month or $49.99 a year	One device	Video Event History, Smart Alerts (person, package, vehicle), Extended Live View
Ring Multi	$9.99 a month or $99.99 a year	Every Ring device at your address	Everything in Solo, plus extended warranties on eligible devices
Ring Pro	$19.99 a month or $199.99 a year	Every Ring device at your address	Everything in Multi, plus 24/7 Professional Monitoring for a Ring Alarm, Video Descriptions, Familiar Faces (beta) and more
Virtual Security Guard	$99.00 a month	Eligible cameras	Everything in Pro, plus trained security staff watching your cameras live

Ring keeps your motion videos in the cloud for up to 180 days. You can choose a shorter storage time in the app if you'd rather not keep them that long.

Checked against Ring's official blog, "Ring Protect Plans Compared" (October 19, 2026), on November 13, 2026.

Two optional add-ons

- **Pro Intelligence** adds Ring's newer "intelligent" features to a Solo or Multi plan. Ring Pro already includes them.
- **24/7 Continuous Recording** is a separate add-on for recording around the clock.

Ring lists both add-ons on its plans page; check the current add-on price there or in the Ring app before you add one.

What works with no Ring plan

Live View, real-time motion alerts, Two-Way Talk, motion zones and Alexa features all work for free. What you lose is recording: without a plan, Ring doesn't save video for you to watch later.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **Ring has no memory-card option for most cameras**
>
> Unlike Blink, Wyze and eufy, Ring cameras and doorbells generally don't offer a way to save video at home for free. If you want Ring recordings, plan on a subscription. That's worth knowing before you buy.

Who each Ring plan suits

- **One doorbell, nothing else:** Ring Solo.
- **Two or more Ring devices:** Ring Multi. Two Solo plans already cost about the same as one Multi.
- **A Ring Alarm you want professionally monitored:** Ring Pro.

> **TIP**
>
> **Try it free first**
>
> Ring gives a free 30-day trial of its plan when you first set up a new Ring doorbell, camera or alarm (not for a location that already has a subscription). Use the trial to see whether you actually look back at saved videos.

Checked against Ring's official blog and Ring Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 6

Google Nest: Google Home Premium

If you have a Nest Cam or Nest Doorbell, you may know the old subscription called **Nest Aware**. Google replaced it with **Google Home Premium**, a single subscription that covers all the Google Nest cameras, doorbells, speakers and displays in your home.

If you had Nest Aware

Google moved existing subscribers over automatically, with no change to billing and nothing to sign up for again. Nest Aware became the **Standard** plan, and Nest Aware Plus became the **Advanced** plan.

The two plans

	Standard	Advanced
Price	$10 a month or $100 a year	$20 a month or $200 a year
Event video history	Up to 30 days	Up to 60 days
24/7 video history	No	10 days (cameras and wired doorbells)
Intelligent alerts	Yes: familiar faces, packages, garage door, smoke and CO alarm sounds and more	Yes, plus more detailed "descriptive" notifications
Gemini extras	Gemini Live on speakers and displays; "Help me create" automations	Everything in Standard, plus searching your video history, event descriptions and daily summaries

Paying yearly saves $20 on Standard and $40 on Advanced. One subscription covers every Google Nest device in the home.

Checked against the Google Store's Google Home Premium page on November 13, 2026.

What your Nest camera does with no plan

This depends on your model. Every Nest camera shows live video at any time, with or without a plan. Here's what you get for free on top of that:

Your camera or doorbell	Free, with no plan
Nest Cam Indoor (wired, 3rd gen), Nest Cam Outdoor (wired, 2nd gen), Nest Doorbell (wired, 3rd gen)	Up to 6 hours of event video previews (clips up to 10 seconds)
Nest Cam (battery), Nest Cam (wired), Nest Doorbell (battery), Nest Doorbell (wired, 2nd gen)	Up to 3 hours of event video history

Your camera or doorbell	Free, with no plan
Older models: Nest Cam IQ, Nest Cam Indoor or Outdoor (1st gen), Nest Doorbell (wired, 1st gen)	3 hours of photo snapshots of activity

Checked against Google Home and Nest Help ("Learn about event and 24/7 video history") on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

24/7 recording needs power

The Advanced plan's 24/7 history only works on cameras connected to power. A Nest Cam (battery) running on its battery gets event history only, even on Advanced. Google says 24/7 history isn't available for the Nest Doorbell (battery) at all, even if you wire it.

If you already pay for Google AI

When Google launched Home Premium, it said Google AI Pro subscribers get the Standard plan at no extra cost, and Google AI Ultra subscribers get Advanced. If you pay for one of those, check the Google Home app before buying Home Premium separately, so you don't pay twice.

Checked against Google's announcement on the Google blog (October 1, 2025) on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Trial and switching

Google offers a 30-day trial of Google Home Premium when you register a new household. If you move from Standard up to Advanced, the longer history starts from the day you upgrade. If you move from Advanced down to Standard, you lose any event history older than 30 days.

Checked against the Google Store and Google Home and Nest Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 7

Arlo: Arlo Secure Plus and Premium

Arlo cameras are known for good video quality and wire-free designs. Arlo's subscription is called **Arlo Secure**, and in 2026 it comes in two levels: **Secure Plus** and **Secure Premium**.

What both plans include

- **60 days** of video history in the cloud.
- **Smart alerts** for people, packages, animals and vehicles, with activity zones so you only hear about the areas you care about.
- Recognition of people and vehicles you know (Arlo calls it Known Person and Vehicle Detection).
- Priority customer support, 15% off Arlo products on Arlo's website, and replacement of a stolen camera.

What Premium adds

- **24/7 professional monitoring** with emergency dispatch. This needs an **Arlo Home Security System**; it isn't just for cameras.
- One-tap emergency response from the app.
- Event captions (a written summary of what happened) and searching your video by time.
- A Professional Monitoring certificate you can show your insurance company, which may qualify for a discount of up to 20% if you have the Arlo Home Security System.

Checked against Arlo's official blog, "Arlo Security Subscriptions Compared" (updated November 6, 2026), on November 13, 2026.

What Arlo costs

Plan	Billed monthly	Billed yearly (per month)
Secure Plus, unlimited cameras	$19.99 a month	About $17.99 a month
Secure Premium, unlimited cameras	$29.99 a month	About $24.99 a month

Arlo also sells a lower-priced version of Secure Plus that covers a single camera. Arlo's own plan page would not load for us when we checked, so look up the single-camera price in the Arlo app before you choose.

Checked against Security.org's Arlo price list (February 2026) and the yearly savings Arlo states on its blog ($24 on Plus, $60 on Premium) on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Arlo prices have been changing

Arlo announced plan price changes for 2026 in several countries, and many owners saw higher renewal prices. Check your renewal email or the Arlo app for the exact price on your account.

Good to know

- A new Arlo camera, doorbell, security system or floodlight comes with a **30-day free trial** of Arlo Secure.
- On a monthly plan you can switch plans at any time; the new price starts with your next billing cycle. On a yearly plan you may have to wait for renewal.
- Each address needs its own plan. A lake cottage would need a second subscription.
- Without a plan, you can still watch live video in the Arlo app, but alerts and notifications are limited.

Checked against Arlo's official blog on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 8

Blink: Basic, Plus and the AI Plans

Blink is Amazon's lower-cost camera line. Its cameras run for a long time on batteries, and many of them can save video at home with no monthly fee (more on that in Part 3). Blink now sells four plans in the U.S.

Plan	Price (U.S.)	Covers	Highlights
Basic	$3.99 a month or $39.99 a year	One device	Cloud video for up to 60 days, live view recording, person and vehicle detection, Blink Moments
Plus	$11.99 a month or $119.99 a year	All Blink devices on your account	Everything in Basic for every device, plus extended warranty coverage
Basic AI	$6.99 a month or $69.99 a year (first year $49.99)	One device	Everything in Basic, plus Video Descriptions, Unusual Activity Alerts and Known Faces (beta)
Plus AI	$19.99 a month or $199.99 a year (first year $149.99)	All devices	Everything in Plus and Basic AI combined

Checked against Blink's official blog, "Blink Subscription Plans Compared" (October 2026), and Blink Support on November 13, 2026.

Blink raised prices in 2025

On October 8, 2025, Blink raised U.S. prices for the first time since 2021. Basic went from $3.00 to $3.99 a month ($30 to $39.99 a year), and Plus went from $10 to $11.99 a month ($100 to $119.99 a year). The new price took effect at each customer's next renewal on or after that date.

Checked against Blink Support ("Blink Subscription Plan Changes Starting October 8, 2025") on November 13, 2026.

Free with every Blink camera

- Live view from your phone.
- Motion-activated notifications.
- Two-way audio.
- Manual thumbnail refresh (a fresh still picture from the camera when you ask for one).

GOOD TO KNOW

AI plans aren't sold everywhere

Blink says its AI plans are available only in the U.S., Canada and the U.K., and not in Illinois because of that state's laws. Known Faces also isn't offered in Texas or Portland, Oregon. If you live in one of those places, Basic and Plus are your choices.

TIP

The Plus discount on Blink cameras

Blink plans include 10% off Blink devices bought on Amazon (20% for yearly AI plans). If you plan to buy more cameras, buy them after your plan starts. Your Blink and Amazon accounts need to be linked for the discount to show up.

Checked against Blink Support ("Subscriptions FAQ") on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 9

Wyze: Cam Plus and Cam Unlimited

Wyze is known for inexpensive cameras, and its plans are among the lowest-priced too, especially for a single camera. Many Wyze cameras also take a microSD memory card, which records at home for free.

Plan	Price (U.S.)	Covers	Highlights
Cam Plus	$2.99 a month or $29.99 a year	One camera per plan	14 days of cloud event video; person, pet, vehicle and package detection; back-to-back event recording
Cam Unlimited	$9.99 a month or $99.99 a year	All your Wyze cameras	Everything in Cam Plus for every camera, plus Friendly Faces
Cam Unlimited Pro	$19.99 a month or $199.99 a year	All your Wyze cameras	60 days of cloud event video, Friendly Faces, descriptive alerts and AI video search

Checked against Wyze's official promotion terms (August 2026) and Wyze Support on November 13, 2026.

The 2026 Cam Plus price change

Starting with renewals on or after March 2, 2026, the yearly Cam Plus price in the U.S. went from $19.99 to $29.99. The monthly price stayed at $2.99. Wyze says you'll get a renewal notice at least 30 days before a yearly plan renews.

Checked against Wyze Support ("Cam Plus Annual Price Increase FAQ") on November 13, 2026.

FROM BILL

Three cameras is the tipping point

Three Cam Plus plans at $29.99 a year come to $89.97, close to the $99.99 for Cam Unlimited. With four or more cameras, Cam Unlimited costs less, and Wyze itself suggests it from three cameras up.

Cam Plus Lite (older plan)

If you signed up years ago, you might still have **Cam Plus Lite**. Wyze no longer offers it to new customers or new cameras. You can keep it, but if you upgrade to Cam Plus, Cam Unlimited or Cam Unlimited Pro, you can't go back to Lite. If you upgrade to one of the Unlimited plans, cancel Lite so you aren't charged for both.

Checked against Wyze Support ("Cam Plus Lite FAQ") on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Friendly Faces and your state

Wyze says Friendly Faces (facial recognition) isn't available in Illinois and is limited in several other states, including California, Texas, Washington and New York City, because of laws about face data.

CHAPTER 10

eufy: Free Local Storage, Optional Cloud Backup

eufy (made by Anker) built its reputation on cameras that store video at home with no monthly fee. Many eufy cameras save to a built-in memory or to a **HomeBase**, a small hub that sits next to your router. The cloud plan is optional, for people who want an extra copy online.

eufy Cloud Backup plans

Plan	Price (U.S.)	Covers	History
Basic	$3.99 a month or $39.99 a year	One device	30 days
Plus	$13.99 a month or $139.99 a year	All devices	30 days

eufy says the cloud copy is encrypted and stored on Amazon's cloud servers, and that it stays available even if your camera or HomeBase goes offline. You set the plan up inside the **eufy Security** app, not on the website, and you must sign in with the same email address you used to buy it.

HEADS UP

Buying Basic twice doesn't cover two cameras

eufy warns that buying the same one-device plan again only extends it for the original device. If you want more than one camera in the cloud, choose the Plus plan.

Checked against eufy's official Cloud Backup page (eufy.com/cloud-storage) on November 13, 2026.

The HomeBase

The current HomeBase, the **HomeBase S380** (also called HomeBase 3), stores recordings from the eufy cameras connected to it with no monthly fee. It has 16GB of storage built in, and you can add a 2.5-inch hard drive (sold separately) to expand it up to 16TB.

Checked against eufy's official HomeBase S380 product page on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Check compatibility before you buy

Not every eufy camera works with every HomeBase. eufy publishes a compatibility guide on its product page. Check it, or call me, before buying a HomeBase for an existing camera.

CHAPTER 11

All Six Side by Side

Here's everything from this part on one page. Prices are U.S. prices, checked in November 2026, before tax. "Whole home" means one plan covers every camera at your address.

Brand	Cheapest one-camera plan	Whole-home plan	Cloud history	Free way to save video at home?
Ring	Solo: $4.99/mo or $49.99/yr	Multi: $9.99/mo or $99.99/yr	Up to 180 days	Generally no
Google Nest	None (one plan covers all)	Standard: $10/mo or $100/yr	30 days (60 on Advanced)	No, but some models keep 3 to 6 hours free
Arlo	Single-camera Secure Plus (check app)	Secure Plus: $19.99/mo	60 days	Only as a backup copy on some hubs
Blink	Basic: $3.99/mo or $39.99/yr	Plus: $11.99/mo or $119.99/yr	Up to 60 days	Yes: Sync Module 2 or XR with a USB drive or microSD card
Wyze	Cam Plus: $2.99/mo or $29.99/yr	Cam Unlimited: $9.99/mo or $99.99/yr	14 days (60 on Pro)	Yes: microSD card in many cameras
eufy	Basic: $3.99/mo or $39.99/yr	Plus: $13.99/mo or $139.99/yr	30 days	Yes: built-in storage or a HomeBase

Checked against each company's official plan and help pages (Arlo: its blog plus Security.org) on November 13, 2026.

FROM BILL

What jumps out

If you want saved video and hate monthly bills, Blink, Wyze and eufy give you a free path. If you have several cameras, every brand's whole-home plan beats paying camera by camera. And if you have a Ring or Google camera, a subscription is the main way to get recordings, so pick the smallest plan that covers what you own.

PART 3

Living Without a Monthly Fee

What every brand still does for free, how storing video at home works, and the honest trade-offs. For many households, this part alone saves the cost of a subscription every year.

CHAPTER 12

What Still Works for Free, Brand by Brand

Before you decide you *must* pay, it helps to see exactly what each brand gives you at no cost. Here's the short version.

Brand	Live view	Motion alerts	Talk through it	Saved video with no plan
Ring	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Google Nest	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 to 6 hours on most current models; snapshots on older ones
Arlo	Yes	Limited	Yes	Don't count on it (see below)
Blink	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, with a Sync Module 2 or XR and a USB drive or microSD card
Wyze	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, on cameras with a microSD card slot
eufy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, built-in storage or a HomeBase on most models

Checked against Ring, Google Home and Nest Help, Arlo, Blink Support and eufy official pages on November 13, 2026.

A word about Arlo and local storage

Some Arlo SmartHubs and base stations have a slot for a USB drive or microSD card. Arlo's own help pages describe that card as a **second, local copy** of your recordings, not a replacement for the cloud. Owners online report mixed results without a plan. If free local recording is important to you, I wouldn't choose Arlo on that basis alone.

A word about Google Nest

Google's newest wired cameras and doorbells keep up to 6 hours of short event previews (clips up to 10 seconds) for free, and the battery models keep up to 3 hours of event video. That's enough to answer "who rang the bell this afternoon?" but not "what happened last Tuesday?"

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Why this matters

Knowing what's free keeps you from paying for something you already have. If all you do is answer the door from your phone, every brand in this manual does that at no monthly cost.

CHAPTER 13

Local Storage Explained

"Local storage" just means your camera saves its video on something inside your house instead of on the company's computers. There are three common kinds.

Kind	How it works
A microSD card in the camera	A memory chip about the size of a fingernail that slips into a slot on the camera. Common on Wyze cameras. Inexpensive and easy.
A USB drive or card in a hub	Blink's Sync Module 2 takes a USB flash drive, and the Sync Module XR takes a microSD card. Every camera on that Sync Module saves to the one drive.
A home base with built-in storage	eufy's HomeBase S380 has 16GB built in and room for a larger hard drive. It holds recordings for the eufy cameras connected to it.

The good parts

- **No monthly fee.** You buy the card, drive or hub once.
- **Your videos stay in your house**, which some people prefer for privacy.
- **It keeps working through a price increase.** Nobody can raise the cost of a card you already own.

The trade-offs

- **Fewer smart features.** Person, package and vehicle detection are usually part of the paid plans.
- **A thief can take it.** If someone steals the camera, the card inside goes too. A hub hidden indoors is safer than a card in an outdoor camera.
- **Cards fill up.** Depending on the brand, it either records over the oldest video or stops recording until you make room.
- **Cards wear out.** Memory cards that record all day eventually fail. Replacing one every few years is normal.

TIP

Buy a card made for cameras

Look for a microSD card labeled for "surveillance," "dash cam" or "high endurance." They're built to be written over and over and last longer than a regular card. Check the largest card size your camera accepts before you buy.

CHAPTER 14

Setting Up Free Local Storage on Blink

Blink is one of the easiest ways to have saved video without a subscription, as long as you have the right Sync Module. The Sync Module is the little box that plugs into the wall and connects your Blink cameras to the internet.

Which Sync Module do you have?

Sync Module	Free local storage?	What to plug in
Sync Module 2	Yes	A USB flash drive (sold separately)
Sync Module XR	Yes	A microSD card (sold separately)
Sync Module Core	No	Cloud storage only, with a plan

Older Blink cameras (the XT, XT2 and Indoor 1st Gen) don't support local storage at all, whatever Sync Module they're on.

Checked against Blink Support ("Blink Storage Options") on November 13, 2026.

How it works

- Clips save straight to the USB drive or microSD card.
- They stay there until you delete them or the drive fills up.
- When the drive is full, **new recordings stop** until you free up space, so check it now and then.
- You watch local clips right in the Blink app.

Checked against Blink Support ("Blink Storage Options") on November 13, 2026.

Setting it up

1. Buy a USB flash drive (for a Sync Module 2) or a microSD card (for a Sync Module XR).
2. Plug the drive or card into your **Sync Module**.
3. Open the **Blink** app on your phone.
4. Tap your Sync Module in the app's settings and look for the **Local Storage** section. The app shows whether it sees the drive and how much space is left.
5. Walk past one of your cameras, then check the app to see that a clip was saved.

GOOD TO KNOW

If you also have a plan

With a Blink plan or trial and a Sync Module 2 or XR, Blink automatically backs up your cloud clips to the drive once every 24 hours. Those backup copies are viewed on a computer, not in the app. It's a nice extra safety net.

Checked against Blink Support ("Blink Storage Options") on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 15

Using a Memory Card in a Wyze Camera

Many Wyze cameras have a microSD card slot. With a card inside, the camera records at home for free, and you can even set it to record continuously, which most cloud plans charge extra for.

Setting it up

1. Unplug the camera (or, for a battery camera, follow its manual) and find the small card slot.
2. Slide the microSD card in gently until it clicks. Don't force it; it only fits one way.
3. Plug the camera back in and let it start up.
4. Open the **Wyze** app, tap the camera, and open its settings.
5. Find the **Local Storage** or **microSD card** setting. The app should show the card and how much space it has. From there you can choose event recording or continuous recording.

TIP

Pair a card with Cam Plus for the best of both

Some people keep a card in each camera for free continuous recording and pay for Cam Plus only on the front door camera, where smart package and person alerts matter most. That's one $29.99-a-year plan instead of several.

HEADS UP

Settings names vary

Wyze has many camera models and updates its app often. If you don't see the exact words above, look for anything mentioning "storage" or "SD card" in the camera's settings.

CHAPTER 16

The Honest Trade-offs of Going Without

Going without a subscription is a perfectly good choice for lots of people. But it's worth being clear-eyed about what you give up, so nothing surprises you later.

What you give up	What it means in real life
No look-back (Ring, most Google)	If something happens while you aren't watching, there may be no recording to show a neighbor, a delivery company or the police.
More alerts	Without smart detection, you may get an alert every time a car passes or the wind moves a bush. Motion zones and sensitivity settings help a lot.
Evidence can be stolen	A card inside an outdoor camera leaves with the camera. Cloud video doesn't.
No extended warranty	Ring Multi, Blink Plus and some others include warranty coverage. Without a plan, you get the standard manufacturer's warranty.

A sensible middle ground

- Pay for the **one camera that matters most** (usually the front door) and use free features or local storage for the rest.
- Use the **free trial** to see how often you actually look back at recordings.
- Subscribe for **the months you travel**, then cancel when you're home. Monthly plans make this easy.

FROM BILL

There's no wrong answer

Paying for a plan isn't foolish, and skipping one isn't reckless. The right choice is the one that matches how you use your cameras. If you're not sure, try a month without and see whether you miss it.

PART 4

Doing the Math

Per-camera or whole-home, monthly or yearly, trials and price increases. A few minutes with a pencil here can save you a good amount every year.

CHAPTER 17

Per-Camera or Whole-Home? Finding Your Break-Even

Most brands sell two kinds of plan: one that covers a single camera, and one that covers every camera at your address. The trick is knowing at what number of cameras the whole-home plan becomes the better deal.

Yearly cost by number of cameras

These use each brand's yearly prices from Part 2 (U.S., November 2026, before tax).

Brand and plans	1 camera	2 cameras	3 cameras	4 cameras	Break-even
Ring: Solo vs. Multi	$49.99 vs. $99.99	$99.98 vs. $99.99	$149.97 vs. $99.99	$199.96 vs. $99.99	2 devices
Blink: Basic vs. Plus	$39.99 vs. $119.99	$79.98 vs. $119.99	$119.97 vs. $119.99	$159.96 vs. $119.99	3 devices
Wyze: Cam Plus vs. Cam Unlimited	$29.99 vs. $99.99	$59.98 vs. $99.99	$89.97 vs. $99.99	$119.96 vs. $99.99	4 cameras
eufy: Basic vs. Plus	$39.99 vs. $139.99	$79.98 vs. $139.99	$119.97 vs. $139.99	$159.96 vs. $139.99	4 devices

Checked against Ring, Blink, Wyze and eufy official plan pages on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Google is simple

Google Home Premium has no one-camera plan. One Standard plan ($100 a year) covers every Google Nest device in the home, whether you have one camera or eight.

Don't forget the extras

Whole-home plans sometimes include more than coverage. Ring Multi and Blink Plus include extended warranties. Blink's plans also include a discount on new Blink devices. If you were going to buy another camera anyway, that can tip the balance.

TIP

Count doorbells too

A video doorbell counts as a device on every one of these plans. Two cameras plus a doorbell is three devices.

CHAPTER 18

Monthly or Yearly Billing

Every brand in this manual lets you pay monthly or once a year. Yearly is almost always cheaper. Here's how much you save.

Plan	12 months, paid monthly	Paid yearly	You save
Ring Solo	$59.88	$49.99	$9.89
Ring Multi	$119.88	$99.99	$19.89
Google Home Premium Standard	$120	$100	$20
Blink Basic	$47.88	$39.99	$7.89
Blink Plus	$143.88	$119.99	$23.89
Wyze Cam Plus (one camera)	$35.88	$29.99	$5.89
Wyze Cam Unlimited	$119.88	$99.99	$19.89
eufy Plus	$167.88	$139.99	$27.89

When monthly makes more sense

- You're **not sure yet** whether you'll keep the plan.
- You only want coverage **while you travel**, a few months a year.
- You expect to **change brands or cameras** soon.
- You'd rather not pay a larger lump sum at once.

HEADS UP

Switching from monthly to yearly isn't always one tap

Google says that to switch Google Home Premium between monthly and yearly, you stop auto-renewal, wait for the billing cycle to end, and then subscribe again with the billing you want. Arlo says yearly members may have to wait for renewal to change plans. Plan the switch near your renewal date.

Checked against the Google Store Google Home Premium FAQ and Arlo's official blog on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 19

Free Trials: Enjoy Them, Then Decide

Almost every new camera comes with a free trial of the paid plan. Trials are a great way to find out whether you actually use the extra features. The key is knowing what happens when the trial ends.

Brand	Trial	What happens afterward
Ring	30 days with a new device (not if the address already has a plan)	Plan features stop unless you subscribe
Google Nest	30 days when you register a new household	Plan features stop unless you subscribe
Arlo	30 days with a new camera, doorbell, system or floodlight	Plan features stop unless you subscribe
Blink	30 days of Plus AI (Plus in Illinois) with a new eligible camera	Cloud recording stops; it does not sign you up automatically; saved clips stay until they age out
Wyze	Varies by offer; one 2026 offer was 90 days of Cam Plus	Some Wyze trials ask for a card and convert to a paid plan unless you cancel

Checked against Ring, Google Store, Arlo, Blink Support and Wyze promotion terms on November 13, 2026.

A simple trial routine

1. The day you set up the camera, put a reminder on your calendar for **three days before** the trial ends.
2. During the trial, notice how often you open a saved clip or use a smart alert.
3. When the reminder pops up, decide: keep it, pick a smaller plan, or let it end.
4. If the trial asked for a payment card, cancel before the end date if you don't want to pay.

TIP

Buying a plan during a trial

Blink says that if you buy a plan during your free trial, you won't be charged until the trial ends. Google notes that buying the Advanced plan during a trial starts 24/7 history from the day you buy, not from the start of the trial.

Checked against Blink Support and the Google Store FAQ on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 20

Price Increases and How to Spot Them

Camera plan prices have gone up across the industry. Here are the recent changes from the companies' own announcements, so a higher charge doesn't catch you by surprise.

Company	What changed
Blink (October 8, 2025)	Basic from $3.00 to $3.99 a month; Plus from $10 to $11.99 a month. Yearly plans went to $39.99 and $119.99. Applied at each customer's next renewal.
Wyze (March 2, 2026)	Yearly Cam Plus from $19.99 to $29.99 at renewal. Monthly stayed at $2.99.
Ring (2026)	Plans renamed (Home Basic became Ring Solo, Home Standard became Ring Multi). Ring says existing subscribers kept the same features with no extra charge for the change.
Google (October 2025)	Nest Aware became Google Home Premium. Existing subscribers moved over with no change to billing.
Arlo (2026)	Arlo announced plan price changes for 2026 in a number of countries. Check your renewal notice for your exact price.

Checked against Blink Support, Wyze Support, Ring Help, the Google Store and Arlo's official price-change notice on November 13, 2026.

How to catch a change early

- **Read renewal emails.** Wyze, for example, says it sends a notice at least 30 days before a yearly plan renews.
- **Look at the charge on your statement** each month or year. Search for the company's name.
- **Check the plan screen** in the app once a year. It shows your price and renewal date.

SCAM ALERT

A real price notice never asks for your card number by email

Genuine renewal notices tell you the new price and point you to the app or website. If an email or text asks you to reply with your card number, call a number, or click a link to "avoid losing your videos," don't. Open the app yourself instead. See Chapter 28 for more.

CHAPTER 21

Sample Homes: Which Plan Fits

Here's how the math works out for a few common setups. These are examples to show the thinking, not recommendations for your exact home. Prices are U.S., yearly, November 2026.

Just a doorbell

Setup	Sensible choice
Ring doorbell	Ring Solo, $49.99 a year, if you want recordings. Or no plan if you only answer the door live.
Blink doorbell with a Sync Module 2	A USB drive for free local clips, or Basic at $39.99 a year for cloud and smart alerts.
Google Nest Doorbell (battery)	Free: up to 3 hours of event video. Standard at $100 a year for 30 days.

A doorbell plus two cameras

Setup	Sensible choice
All Ring	Ring Multi, $99.99 a year, covers all three (three Solo plans would be $149.97).
All Blink	Plus, $119.99 a year, or free local storage on a Sync Module 2 or XR.
All Wyze	Cam Plus on each, $89.97 a year, or Cam Plus on the doorbell only and microSD cards in the cameras.

Five or more cameras

At this size, a whole-home plan always wins on price: Ring Multi ($99.99), Wyze Cam Unlimited ($99.99), Google Standard ($100), Blink Plus ($119.99) or eufy Plus ($139.99) a year. Or, with eufy, a HomeBase and no monthly fee at all.

FROM BILL

Mixed brands cost more

If you have a Ring doorbell and Wyze cameras, you need a separate plan from each company. When it's time to replace a camera, sticking with one brand usually keeps the yearly cost down.

PART 5

Changing, Downgrading and Canceling

How to save your videos first, then cancel or switch plans with each brand, including plans you bought through Apple, Google Play or Amazon.

CHAPTER 22

Before You Cancel: Save Your Videos

This is the most important step, so it gets its own chapter. When a plan ends, some brands delete your saved videos right away and others let them age out. If there's a clip you might ever need, like a package theft, a fender-bender in the driveway or a sweet moment with the grandkids, save it to your phone first.

Brand	What happens to saved videos when you cancel
Ring	You lose access to all your recorded videos. Ring says past recordings can't be restored, even if you subscribe again.
Google Nest	Service continues until the billing cycle ends. Google says to save any important video or sound clips before you cancel.
Blink	Existing clips stay in the app to view, download and share until they're deleted by your auto-delete setting (up to 60 days in the U.S.).
eufy	Save anything important before the cloud period ends; video on your HomeBase or camera stays at home.

Checked against Ring Help, the Google Store FAQ and Blink Support on November 13, 2026.

The general idea for saving a clip

1. Open your camera app and go to the list of recorded events (it may be called History, Events, Library, Clips or Activity).
2. Tap the clip you want to keep so it plays.
3. Look for a **Download**, **Save** or **Share** button (often an arrow pointing down, or a box with an arrow).
4. Choose to save it to your phone. It goes into your phone's Photos or Gallery app, where it stays even after the plan ends.
5. Repeat for each clip you want, then check your Photos app to make sure they're there.

TIP

Only save what matters

You don't need to save every clip of the mail carrier. Pick the few that might matter later. If a clip involves a crime or an insurance claim, save it now and also share it with whoever needs it.

CHAPTER 23

Canceling or Changing a Ring Plan

Ring plans are managed on Ring's website, ring.com. If you bought your plan on Amazon, you manage it on Amazon instead (see Chapter 26).

To cancel a Ring plan

1. Save any videos you want to keep (Chapter 22). Canceling removes access to all recordings.
2. On a computer or your phone's web browser, go to **ring.com** and sign in.
3. Select **Plan** on the top menu.
4. Select the plan you want to cancel.
5. Confirm the cancellation.

Checked against Ring Help ("Canceling your Ring plan") on November 13, 2026.

Good to know	
When it stops	Your plan and add-ons stop at the end of your billing period and don't renew. You keep the plan's features until then.
Refunds	Ring says refunds aren't available for cancellations unless the law requires one.
Changing your mind	You can subscribe again any time, but old recordings won't come back.

Checked against Ring Help on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Downgrade instead

If you're on Ring Multi and only one Ring device is still in use, switching to Ring Solo cuts the yearly cost in half. Look at the same **Plan** page on ring.com to change plans.

CHAPTER 24

Canceling or Changing Google Home Premium

Where you manage Google Home Premium depends on where you bought it. Most people bought it through the Google Store or the Google Home app.

If you bought it from the Google Store

1. Save any important video clips first.
2. In a web browser, go to the Google Store (**store.google.com**) and sign in with your Google Account.
3. Open your account menu and choose **Subscriptions**.
4. Select Google Home Premium, choose **More**, then **Cancel subscription**, and confirm.

Good to know	
When it stops	You keep service until the end of the billing cycle.
Bought through Google Play	Cancel it in the Google Play Store's subscriptions list instead.
Bought from a partner (such as an internet or phone company)	Contact that company. Google can't change a subscription bought through a partner.
Monthly to yearly	Stop auto-renewal, wait for the cycle to end, then subscribe again with yearly billing.

Checked against Google Store Help and the Google Store's Google Home Premium FAQ on November 13, 2026.

HEADS UP

Downgrading from Advanced

Moving from Advanced to Standard deletes event history older than 30 days, and your last 10 days of 24/7 video become event history. Save anything important from the older footage first.

Checked against Google Home and Nest Help on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 25

Canceling Arlo, Blink, Wyze and eufy

Blink

If you bought your plan on Blink.com:

1. In a web browser, go to **blinkforhome.com** and log in with your email and password.
2. Enter the verification code Blink sends you (by text, WhatsApp or email) and click **Verify Code**.
3. Click **My Plan**.
4. At the bottom of the page, click **Cancel My Plan**.
5. A page shows which devices will lose coverage. Click **Cancel Plan**.

Your plan benefits continue until the renewal date. Blink says plans bought on Blink.com aren't refunded. If you bought on Amazon, cancel through **Memberships & Subscriptions** in your Amazon account; Blink says monthly and yearly Amazon plans can be canceled right away for a prorated refund, or at the end of the billing cycle.

Checked against Blink Support ("Subscriptions FAQ" and "Blink Subscription Plan Changes") on November 13, 2026.

Wyze

1. Open the **Wyze** app.
2. Tap **Account**, then **Services**.
3. Select your plan, then tap **Cancel Subscription**.

You can also cancel online in your account at **my.wyze.com**, or by contacting Wyze Support. Canceling stops future renewals; you keep the plan through the time you've paid for, and fees generally aren't refunded. If you subscribed through the Apple App Store, cancel it there (Chapter 26).

Checked against Wyze's official promotion terms and Wyze Support on November 13, 2026.

Arlo

Arlo subscriptions are managed in your Arlo account at **my.arlo.com** (Arlo's website links to it as "Manage Subscription"). Sign in, open your subscription, and choose to change or cancel it. On a monthly plan, a change takes effect at the end of the billing cycle; yearly plans may need to wait for renewal.

Checked against Arlo's official blog and website on November 13, 2026.

eufy

eufy's own help article says you **can't cancel the Cloud Backup plan yourself** at the moment. Instead, contact eufy support and give them the serial number of the camera whose plan you want to cancel. The plan then stops renewing; eufy says the current month's fee isn't refunded. eufy Security support's U.S. phone number on its website is (800) 988-7973. If you bought the plan through Apple or Google Play, cancel it in that store instead.

Checked against eufy Support ("Troubleshooting eufySecurity Device Cloud Storage Subscription Issues") and eufy.com on November 13, 2026.

TIP

Find the serial number before you call

In the eufy Security app, the camera's serial number is usually listed in the device's settings, under something like "About" or "General." It's also printed on a sticker on the camera or its box.

CHAPTER 26

Plans Bought Through Apple, Google Play or Amazon

If you signed up inside an app on your phone, the subscription may be billed by Apple or Google instead of the camera company. And Ring and Blink plans are often bought on Amazon. In those cases, you cancel with whoever bills you. A quick look at your card statement tells you: the charge will say Apple, Google, Amazon or the camera brand.

On an iPhone or iPad (Apple)

1. Open the **Settings** app.
2. Tap your name at the top.
3. Tap **Subscriptions**.
4. Find the camera subscription and tap **Cancel Subscription**. You may need to scroll down to see it.

If there's no Cancel button, or you see an expiration message in red, it's already canceled. Your plan stays active until the end of the billing period.

Checked against Blink Support's Apple cancellation steps on November 13, 2026.

On Amazon (common for Ring and Blink)

1. Go to Amazon and sign in.
2. Open **Memberships & Subscriptions** from your account.
3. Find the Ring or Blink plan and choose **Cancel Subscription**.

Checked against Blink Support and Ring Help on November 13, 2026.

On an Android phone (Google Play)

Open the **Google Play Store** app, tap your profile picture, and look for your list of subscriptions. Select the camera plan and cancel it there.

HEADS UP

Deleting the app doesn't cancel anything

Removing the camera app from your phone, or unplugging the camera, does **not** stop the charges. Always cancel the subscription itself.

CHAPTER 27

Downgrading Instead of Canceling

Sometimes the best move isn't to cancel, but to step down to a smaller plan that still covers what you use. Here are the common downgrades.

From	To	When it makes sense
Ring Multi	Ring Solo	Only one Ring device still matters
Ring Pro	Ring Multi	You no longer need professional alarm monitoring
Google Advanced	Google Standard	You don't need 24/7 recording or 60 days of history
Blink Plus AI	Blink Plus or Basic	You don't use Video Descriptions or Known Faces
Blink Plus	Basic, or local storage	You're down to one camera, or you have a Sync Module 2 or XR
Wyze Cam Unlimited	Cam Plus on one or two cameras	You have three or fewer cameras
eufy Plus	eufy Basic, or HomeBase only	Only one camera really needs a cloud copy

HEADS UP

Downgrades can shorten your history

When you step down, older videos beyond the new plan's limit may be deleted. Save anything important first (Chapter 22).

FROM BILL

One yearly check-up

Once a year, maybe when you change the smoke alarm batteries, open each camera app's plan screen and ask: How many cameras am I paying for? Do I still use them? Is there a cheaper plan? It takes ten minutes.

PART 6

Staying Safe and Getting Help

Subscription scams, where your videos live, quick answers to common questions, and how to reach Bill.

CHAPTER 28

Subscription Scams and Fake Renewal Notices

Because so many people pay for camera plans, scammers send fake messages that look like they're from Ring, Amazon, Google or another brand. They try to scare you into paying, sharing a card number, or letting a stranger onto your computer. The good news: a few simple habits protect you completely.

Warning signs

- "Your camera subscription has **expired**. Update your payment within 24 hours or lose all your videos."
- "You've been charged $399.99 for a security plan. If this wasn't you, **call this number**."
- A message asking you to pay with **gift cards**, a wire transfer or cryptocurrency.
- A "support" caller who wants to **connect to your computer** to fix your account or issue a refund.
- Links that go to a website address that isn't the company's real one.

SCAM ALERT

The golden rule

Never use a link, phone number or button inside an unexpected message. Instead, open the camera app or type the company's website address yourself. If there's a real problem with your plan, you'll see it there.

If you're not sure

1. Don't click, call or reply.
2. Open the camera app you normally use and look at the plan or billing screen.
3. Check your bank or card statement for the charge the message describes.
4. If something still seems wrong, call the number on the back of your card, or the company's number from its official website.

SCAM ALERT

Refund callers are almost always scammers

A call or email offering to "refund" a camera subscription, then asking you to install software or log in to your bank while they watch, is a well-known scam. Hang up. Real refunds don't work that way.

STAY SAFE

If you already shared information

Call your bank or card company right away using the number on your card, and change the password for your camera account. If you let someone onto your computer, turn it off and get it checked. I can help with that: call me at (330) 200-8042.

CHAPTER 29

Privacy: Where Your Videos Live

A camera plan means your videos are stored on the company's computers. That's convenient and safe from thieves, but it's fair to think about who can see them.

Simple steps that help

- **Use a strong, unique password** for your camera account, and turn on two-step verification if the app offers it. (Blink, for example, sends a verification code when you log in on its website.)
- **Keep shared access tidy.** If you gave a family member or a former caregiver access, remove anyone who no longer needs it.
- **Choose shorter history** if you'd rather not keep video for months. Ring and Blink let you shorten how long clips are stored.
- **Point indoor cameras thoughtfully**, and use the privacy cover or schedule if yours has one.

Face recognition and state laws

Features that recognize familiar faces (Ring's Familiar Faces, Blink's Known Faces, Wyze's Friendly Faces, Google's familiar face alerts) handle sensitive information. Because of state laws, several brands don't offer these features in Illinois, and some limit them in Texas, Portland (Oregon) and other places. If a feature you saw advertised is missing from your app, your location may be why.

Checked against Ring's official blog, Blink Support and Wyze's promotion terms on November 13, 2026.

GOOD TO KNOW

Local storage keeps video at home

If privacy matters most to you, local storage (Part 3) keeps recordings inside your house. eufy's HomeBase, Blink's Sync Module with a USB drive, and Wyze's microSD cards all work this way.

CHAPTER 30

Quick Answers to Common Questions

Question	Short answer
Will my camera stop working if I cancel?	No. Live view, motion alerts and talking through it keep working with every brand in this manual. You lose saved cloud video and the smart features.
Do I need one plan per camera?	Only on one-camera plans (Ring Solo, Blink Basic, Wyze Cam Plus, eufy Basic). Whole-home plans cover every camera at the address. Google has only whole-home plans.
I have a camera at a second home. Is it covered?	Usually not. Ring and Arlo plans cover one address; a second home typically needs its own plan.
Can I share one plan with my daughter's house?	Not with whole-home plans tied to one address. Each home needs its own.
Why did my price go up?	Several brands raised prices in 2025 and 2026 (Chapter 20). Check your renewal email and the plan screen in the app.
Is the most expensive plan the safest?	Not necessarily. Top plans add things like professional alarm monitoring and AI descriptions. For most homes, the basic recording plan covers what matters.
Is local storage as good as the cloud?	For many people, yes. The main differences are fewer smart alerts and the risk that a thief takes the card with the camera (Chapter 16).
Do my old Nest Aware or Ring Basic plans still work?	Yes, under new names. Nest Aware is now Google Home Premium Standard, and Ring's Home Basic is now Ring Solo.

Checked against Ring, Google Store, Arlo, Blink and Wyze official pages on November 13, 2026.

CHAPTER 31

When to Call Bill

This manual should carry you a long way on your own. But some situations are simply easier with a second pair of eyes, and that's what I'm here for.

Good reasons to call

- You're paying for a plan and can't figure out **who's billing you** or how to cancel it.
- You want help **choosing** between a plan and local storage for your particular cameras.
- You'd like a **Sync Module, memory card or HomeBase** set up and tested so you're sure it's recording.
- You've received a message about your camera plan and want to know **if it's real**.
- You have cameras from **several brands** and want to simplify.

How I can help

Option	What it looks like
Remote help	We connect over the phone and the internet, and I walk through your camera apps and plans with you, step by step.
In your home	I come to you, look at your cameras, set up local storage, and make sure everything is recording the way you want.

My help is **$49 remote · $99 in your home**. This manual is yours to use and share at no cost; the visits are what I charge for, and I'll always tell you the price up front.

Call **(330) 200-8042** or book a time at **billshometech.com/book**. If I'm with another customer, Sophie, my AI receptionist, will answer, take your details and help find a time that suits you.

FROM BILL

One last thought

A camera is there to give you peace of mind, and so is the plan you choose for it. Pick the smallest plan that does what you need, save the videos that matter, and check your plans once a year. That's all there is to it. You're going to do just fine.

— Bill