BILL'S HOME TECH
Home & Small Business Tech Solutions

BILL'S COMPLETE MANUALS

Robot Vacuums

Roomba, Roborock, and eufy — your floors cleaned for you, explained in plain English

A plain-English guide to robot vacuums

Let the robot do the vacuuming

Written for you by Bill — Bill's Home Tech

(330) 200-8042 · BillsHomeTech.com

For Roomba, Roborock & eufy · facts current November 2026

What's Inside

This is your robot-vacuum manual. A **robot vacuum** is a little disc-shaped machine that drives itself around your floors, vacuuming (and sometimes mopping) while you do something else — then parks itself back on its dock to recharge. For anyone who finds pushing a vacuum tiring, it's a genuine help. We cover the three popular brands — **Roomba**, **Roborock**, and **eufy** — in plain English: choosing one, setting it up, running it, keeping it going, and fixing the common hiccups. Read it in any order, and let the robot do the work.

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PART 1

Understanding Robot Vacuums

What these little machines are, the genuinely helpful things they do, the features that matter (mapping, self-emptying, mopping), and the popular brands. Start here.

CHAPTER 1

A Note from Bill

Hello, and welcome. Whoever is holding this book — this is for **you**. Maybe a thoughtful family member gave you a robot vacuum and it's sitting in its box looking complicated. Maybe pushing a vacuum around has gotten harder on your back and knees, and you've wondered if one of these little robots could really help. The answer is yes — and they're friendlier to set up than you'd think.

I'm Bill. Helping folks feel at home with their technology is what I do every day, and I wrote this book the way I'd sit beside you at your kitchen table: patiently, in plain English. A robot vacuum sounds futuristic, but it's really a simple helper once you understand it, and it can take a genuinely tiring chore off your hands.

Why they're worth it

For anyone who finds vacuuming a strain — the bending, the lifting, the pushing — a robot vacuum is a real quality-of-life gift. It keeps your floors tidy day to day with no effort from you: press a button (or just say the word), and it cleans while you read, rest, or do anything else. Your floors stay nicer, and your back thanks you.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A tiring chore, simply done for you

The real value of a robot vacuum is that it quietly removes one of the more physically demanding household chores from your plate. No more hauling a heavy vacuum around, bending to reach under things, or straining your back. The floors just stay clean, tended by a little machine that asks almost nothing of you. For comfort and independence at home, that's a genuine help.

You can't break it, and I'm a call away

Robot vacuums are made to be friendly, and you can't harm anything by trying — worst case, it bumps gently into a chair leg. And if setup or the app gives you trouble, call me at **(330) 200-8042** and we'll get it running together. Let's put your little helper to work.

— Bill

CHAPTER 2

What a Robot Vacuum Is

Let's start simple. A **robot vacuum** is a round, flat machine — about the size of a dinner plate and a few inches tall — that drives itself around your floors on its own, vacuuming up dust, crumbs, and pet hair as it goes. When it's done or low on battery, it drives back to its charging **dock** by itself.

How it works, in plain terms

- **It drives around on its own**, sensing walls and furniture, covering your floors methodically.
- **It vacuums as it goes**, pulling dirt into a little bin inside it.
- **It returns to its dock** to recharge when finished or low on battery — no intervention needed.
- **You control it** with a button on top, a phone app, or your voice.

GOOD TO KNOW

It's a helper for daily upkeep, not a deep clean

Set your expectations rightly and you'll be delighted: a robot vacuum is wonderful for **daily and weekly upkeep** — keeping floors free of everyday dust, crumbs, and pet hair with no effort. It's not meant to replace an occasional deep clean of corners and under heavy furniture. Think of it as a tireless helper that keeps things *nice* between the bigger cleans. Used that way, it's a joy.

CHAPTER 3

The Features That Matter

Robot vacuums come with a range of features, some genuinely useful and some just nice extras. Understanding the main ones helps you know what you're looking at (and what to pay for).

The features worth knowing

Feature	What it does for you
Mapping	The robot learns the layout of your home, so it cleans methodically and you can send it to specific rooms.
Self-emptying dock	The dock sucks the dirt out of the robot into a big bag, so you empty it every few WEEKS, not daily.
Mopping	Some models also mop — a damp pad wipes hard floors after (or while) vacuuming.
Scheduling	Set it to clean automatically at set times — e.g. every morning while you have coffee.
No-go zones	Tell it areas to avoid — the pet bowls, a cluttered corner — in the app.
Obstacle avoidance	Better models see and steer around shoes, cords, and (ideally) pet messes.

TIP

Self-emptying is the feature most folks love most

If you're choosing features to prioritize, a **self-emptying dock** is the one most people end up treasuring. Instead of emptying the robot's little bin after every clean, the dock does it for you — you only deal with it every few weeks. For truly hands-off floors, it's worth the extra cost. Pair it with scheduling, and your floors get cleaned and the robot emptied with almost no involvement from you at all.

CHAPTER 4

Meet the Three Brands

This book covers the three most popular robot-vacuum brands. All make good machines across a range of prices; here's an honest introduction to help you get your bearings.

The brands at a glance

Brand	Known for
Roomba (iRobot)	The original and best-known. Reliable, simple app, wide range from basic to premium.
Roborock	Feature-packed and often great value; strong mapping and mopping on many models.
eufy	Budget-friendly and dependable; good simple models for getting started affordably.

TIP

Any of the three is a fine choice — pick for your budget and needs

Don't agonize over the brand — Roomba, Roborock, and eufy all make good robot vacuums, and this book's guidance applies to all of them. Roomba is the trusted name, Roborock packs in features for the money, eufy keeps it affordable. Pick based on your budget and which features matter to you (next part helps). If you'd like a recommendation for your home, that's exactly what a quick call is for.

GOOD TO KNOW

They all need a phone app and Wi-Fi for the best features

One thing common to all three: to get the good features — scheduling, mapping, zones, voice control — you connect the robot to your home **Wi-Fi** and control it with the brand's **phone app**. The basic “press the button and it cleans” works without all that, but the app is where the magic is. So a smartphone and Wi-Fi make a robot vacuum far more useful. We'll set that up in Part 3.

CHAPTER 4a

Common Worries, Put to Rest

Folks considering a robot vacuum often have the same handful of worries. Let's address them plainly, because most melt away once you know the truth.

The usual worries, answered

The worry	The reality
“Will it fall down the stairs?”	No — cliff sensors stop it at any drop-off.
“Will it tangle my cords and rugs?”	Only if left on the floor — a quick tidy and no-go zones prevent it.
“Is it loud?”	About as loud as a quiet vacuum — schedule it for when you're out.
“Is it hard to set up?”	The Wi-Fi step is the only fiddly part — and easy with help.
“Will my pet be scared?”	Maybe at first; most pets soon ignore it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most worries vanish after the first week

Nearly every concern about robot vacuums — stairs, tangles, noise, pets — fades once you've lived with one for a week and seen how it actually behaves. They're designed to be safe and unfussy. Give it a short settling-in period, learn its little habits, tidy the floor before it runs, and you'll wonder what you worried about. The reality is far gentler than the imagined trouble.

CHAPTER 4b

A Lovely Gift — Giving or Receiving

Robot vacuums are among the most popular and genuinely thoughtful gifts for older adults — so you may be reading this because you received one, or are thinking of giving one. A few words on making it a success.

Making the gift work

- **The setup is the key** — a robot still boxed helps no one. Help get it connected and running (or arrange for someone to).
- **Match it to the home** — the right features for their floors and furniture (Part 2).
- **Keep it simple at first** — just “press this button” can be enough to start; add scheduling and zones later.
- **Show, don't just give** — a little hands-on walk-through makes all the difference.

TIP

The best gift includes the setup

If you're giving a robot vacuum to a parent or loved one, the truly thoughtful move is to **set it up with them** — or arrange for someone to — not just hand over the box. A robot vacuum sitting unopened because it “looked complicated” is a sadly common sight. Spend an hour getting it connected, mapped, and demonstrated, and you've given a gift that actually gets used and loved for years.

FROM BILL

Gave or got a robot vacuum? I'll help it get used

If a robot vacuum has arrived as a gift — for you, or for someone you care about — and it's feeling daunting, that's exactly what I'm here for. I'll get it set up, mapped, and demonstrated so it actually earns its keep instead of gathering dust in the box. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll bring the gift to life. Helping a thoughtful present actually get used is some of my happiest work.

PART 2

Choosing the Right One

Is a robot vacuum right for your home? Which features are worth paying for, matching it to your floors and furniture, and what to look for when you buy.

CHAPTER 5

Is One Right for Your Home?

Robot vacuums suit most homes wonderfully — but a few situations suit them better than others. A quick honest look helps you set expectations and choose well.

Robot vacuums work best with…

- **Mostly hard floors and low carpet** — they handle these beautifully.
- **Reasonably open floors** — fewer obstacles means smoother cleaning.
- **A home on mostly one level** — or a robot per level (they don't climb stairs — and won't fall down them).
- **Pets** — they're fantastic for daily pet hair.

Things to know

- **Thick, deep carpet** can challenge cheaper models — check if that's your main flooring.
- **Very cluttered floors** need a quick tidy first (pick up cords, small objects).
- **Stairs** — a robot cleans one level; it senses drops and won't tumble down, but it can't go up.

GOOD TO KNOW

They won't fall down the stairs — a common worry, put to rest

A frequent and understandable worry: “won't it tumble down the stairs?” No — robot vacuums have **cliff sensors** that detect a drop-off (like a stair edge) and stop before going over. So it'll clean right up to the top step and turn back safely. You don't need to barricade the stairs. It simply can't clean a *different* level unless you carry it there.

CHAPTER 6

Which Features Are Worth Paying For?

Prices range widely, mostly based on features. Here's an honest take on which extras are worth the money for most people, and which you can skip.

Worth it for most people

- **Mapping** — cleans methodically and lets you target rooms. Genuinely useful; worth it.
- **Self-emptying dock** — the big convenience; worth it if hands-off is your goal.
- **Scheduling** — standard on most, and lovely. Set and forget.

Nice but optional

- **Mopping** — handy if you have hard floors; skip it if you're mostly carpet.
- **Fancy obstacle avoidance / cameras** — helpful with pets and clutter, but pricier (and cameras raise privacy questions — Part 7).
- **Premium 'all-in-one' docks** that wash mop pads — wonderful but expensive.

TIP

A mid-range model with mapping and self-empty suits most folks

If you'd like a simple recommendation to cut through the choices: a **mid-range model with mapping and a self-emptying dock** hits the sweet spot for most people — genuinely hands-off, methodical cleaning, without paying for premium extras you may not need. Add mopping if you have lots of hard floor. Start there, and you'll likely be very happy. I'm glad to point you to a specific good value.

CHAPTER 7

Matching It to Your Floors

Your home's floors and furniture affect which robot will work best — a little thought here avoids disappointment.

Consider your home

If you have…	Keep in mind
Mostly hard floors	Almost any robot does well; mopping is a nice bonus.
Thick/plush carpet	Choose a model with strong suction; check reviews for carpet performance.
Dark rugs/floors	Some cliff sensors misread very dark surfaces — check reviews if this is you.
Low furniture	Check the robot's HEIGHT fits under your couch/beds, or it'll miss there.
High thresholds/transitions	Check the robot can climb over door thresholds between rooms.

HEADS UP

Check the robot's height against your low furniture

A small but real gotcha: robot vacuums vary in **height**, and if yours is taller than the gap under your couch or bed, it simply can't clean under there — a common disappointment. Before buying, measure the lowest clearance you want it to reach, and check the robot's height against it. A slimmer model reaches under more furniture. A two-minute measurement saves a frustration.

CHAPTER 8

Buying Tips

A few practical pointers keep your purchase smooth and get you a machine you'll be happy with.

Buying checklist

- **The features you actually want** — mapping and self-empty for most; mopping if hard floors.
- **A smartphone** — needed for the best features, so factor that in.
- **Reputable brand and seller** — Roomba, Roborock, eufy from a known retailer, with a return policy.
- **Replacement parts availability** — brushes, filters, bags, and mop pads are consumables you'll replace over time.

GOOD TO KNOW

Remember the ongoing little costs

A robot vacuum has small running costs worth knowing about: it uses **consumable parts** — filters, brushes, and (for self-emptying models) dust **bags**, plus mop pads if it mops — that you replace every few months. These aren't expensive, but factor them in. Sticking to a major brand means these parts stay easy to find for years. It's a bit like buying vacuum bags for an old vacuum — a modest, ongoing expense.

FROM BILL

Happy to recommend the right robot and set it up

Choosing a robot vacuum and getting it set up — connected to Wi-Fi, mapped, scheduled — is a genuinely nice thing to do with a hand. I can point you to the right model for your home and budget (no upselling), and get it cleaning properly from day one. If you'd like tidy floors without the guesswork, call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll sort it start to finish.

CHAPTER 8a

Robot Vacuum or Regular Vacuum?

A fair question before you buy: does a robot vacuum *replace* your regular vacuum, or work alongside it? The honest answer helps you set expectations and decide what you need.

How they fit together

- **The robot handles daily upkeep** — keeping floors free of everyday dust, crumbs, and pet hair, effortlessly.
- **A regular vacuum still helps for deep cleans** — stairs, upholstery, corners, under heavy furniture, the occasional thorough job.
- **Together they're a great team** — the robot does the frequent light work so you reach for the big vacuum far less often.

GOOD TO KNOW

It reduces the big vacuum's work — maybe not eliminates it

For most homes, a robot vacuum doesn't entirely replace a regular vacuum — but it does **dramatically reduce** how often you need one. The robot keeps floors nice day to day, so the heavy, tiring vacuuming drops from a frequent chore to an occasional deep clean. For anyone who finds pushing a vacuum hard, that shift — from often to rarely — is exactly the relief they're after. Think teammate, not total replacement.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Far less heavy vacuuming — that's the real win

The honest, happy truth: with a robot handling the daily floors, you'll pull out the big, heavy vacuum a fraction as often — maybe for the occasional deep clean or the stairs. For a sore back or tired arms, going from vacuuming twice a week to once a month is a genuine quality-of-life improvement. The robot does the frequent light lifting so you don't have to. That's worth a great deal.

CHAPTER 8b

Apartments and Smaller Homes

Robot vacuums suit apartments and smaller homes beautifully — often even better than big houses. A few notes for compact living.

Robots in smaller spaces

- **Smaller area = faster, fuller cleans** — the robot easily covers a compact home on one charge.
- **A basic model may be plenty** — you may not need premium mapping for a small, open space.
- **Tuck the dock** somewhere out of the way but with clear space to park.
- **Great for renters** — no installation, nothing attached to the home; it goes with you when you move.

TIP

In a small home, a simpler model often does the job

You don't always need the fanciest robot for a smaller home or apartment — a more **basic, affordable model** can cover a compact space wonderfully, since there's less ground and fewer rooms to navigate. Save the premium mapping and self-emptying features for larger homes if budget is tight. For cozy living, a simple robot keeps the floors lovely without the higher cost. Match the machine to the space.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Perfect for easy living in a smaller space

In an apartment or smaller home, a robot vacuum is an especially tidy fit: it zips through the whole place quickly, needs no installation, takes up almost no room, and keeps your compact space immaculate with no effort. And it's wonderfully renter-friendly — nothing attached, nothing to undo, it simply comes with you when you move. Easy living, cleaner floors.

PART 3

Setting It Up

From box to first clean: placing the dock, charging, the app, connecting to Wi-Fi, and that important first run where it learns your home.

CHAPTER 9

Unboxing and Placing the Dock

Setup starts with the **dock** — the robot's home base, where it charges and (on self-emptying models) unloads its dirt. Placing it well matters, because the robot always comes back here.

Placing the dock well

- **On a hard, level floor** against a wall, with **open space around it** — a few feet clear in front and to the sides, so the robot can dock easily.
- **Not tucked in a tight corner or cupboard** — it needs room to drive in and out.
- **Near an outlet** — the dock must stay plugged in.
- **A central-ish, accessible spot** — somewhere it can reach the rest of the home from.

TIP

Give the dock clear space, or the robot struggles to park

The most common setup mistake is cramming the dock into a tight spot — then the robot has trouble finding and backing onto it after cleaning. Give it **open space**: a couple of feet to each side and several in front, against a flat wall. With room to maneuver, the robot docks reliably every time. A little clearance here prevents a lot of “it didn't make it back” frustration.

CHAPTER 10

Charging It Up

Before its first clean, the robot needs a good charge. Give it time on the dock to fill up — it's eager to get going, but a full battery makes the first run go smoothly.

First charge

1. **Plug in the dock** and set it in its spot.
2. **Place the robot on the dock** — line up its charging contacts (a light usually shows it's charging).
3. **Let it charge fully** before the first clean — often a few hours.
4. From now on, it returns and recharges itself after each clean.

> **GOOD TO KNOW**
>
> **It manages its own battery — you never plug in the robot**
>
> A nice thing to understand: you never charge the *robot* directly — you keep the **dock** plugged in, and the robot drives onto it to charge itself whenever it needs to. If a clean is big, it'll even pause to recharge partway and then resume. So battery is one thing you simply don't have to think about. Keep the dock powered, and the robot handles the rest.

CHAPTER 11

The App and Wi-Fi

To unlock scheduling, mapping, zones, and voice control, you connect the robot to your home **Wi-Fi** through the brand's free **app**. The app guides you, step by step.

Connecting it

1. **Install the app** for your brand: **iRobot** (Roomba), **Roborock**, or **eufy Clean**, from your phone's app store.
2. **Create a free account** and choose **Add a device / robot**.
3. **Follow the prompts** — it'll have you press a button or two on the robot, then connect it to your **Wi-Fi** (enter your Wi-Fi password).
4. Once connected, the robot appears in the app, ready to control.

TIP

Keep the robot near your router for setup

During setup, keep the robot **near your Wi-Fi router** so it connects easily — you can move the dock to its real spot afterward. Have your **Wi-Fi password** handy too. If it won't connect, making sure your phone is on your home Wi-Fi (not cellular) and the robot is close to the router usually does it. This connection step is the fiddliest part — and a great one to do with a helper.

FROM BILL

The Wi-Fi setup is the one to call me about

Getting a new gadget onto your Wi-Fi is the step that trips most folks up, and robot vacuums are no exception. If the app and Wi-Fi connection give you grief, don't wrestle with it — call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll get it connected and ready to go together. After that first setup, running it is a breeze.

CHAPTER 12

The First Clean (Learning Your Home)

The first run is special: on mapping models, the robot drives around **learning the layout of your home**, building a map it'll use forever after. Let's make that first run go well.

A good first run

1. **Tidy the floors first** — pick up cords, small objects, loose rugs, and anything it might snag on.
2. **Open interior doors** so it can explore the whole level and map all the rooms.
3. **Start the clean** from the app (or the button). Let it roam — it's learning.
4. **Let it finish and return to the dock.** It now has a map of your home.

TIP

Tidy the floor before the first run — and the first few

The single best thing you can do for happy robot-vacuuming is a quick **floor tidy** before it runs — especially the first times — clearing cords, socks, small toys, and loose rug corners it could get tangled in. As it learns your home and you learn its habits, you'll find the routine. A 30-second pickup beats rescuing a robot wound up in a phone charger. Soon it's second nature.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

After it learns your home, the magic begins

Once that first mapping run is done, the real convenience unlocks: you can send the robot to clean just the kitchen, set it to run every morning, mark off areas to avoid — all because it now knows your home's layout. That first run is a little investment that pays off every day after. From here on, it's mostly hands-off, tidy floors.

PART 4

Everyday Use

Living with your robot: starting a clean, setting a schedule so it runs itself, sending it to specific rooms, and controlling it by voice.

CHAPTER 13

Starting a Clean

The simplest everyday action: telling the robot to clean. There are three easy ways, so use whichever suits the moment.

Three ways to start

- **The button** — press the big **Clean** button on top of the robot. Off it goes; press again to stop/send it home.
- **The app** — tap **Clean** (or **Start**) in the app, from anywhere — even away from home.
- **Your voice** — “Hey Google / Alexa, tell the vacuum to clean” (once set up; see Chapter 16).

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Clean floors at the press of a button — or a word

That's the everyday joy of it: when the floor needs a once-over, you press a button or say a word, and sit back while the robot does the work. No hauling out a vacuum, no bending, no effort. Expecting company? One tap and the floors are freshened. It turns a chore into an afterthought.

CHAPTER 14

Setting a Schedule

The real magic of a robot vacuum is **scheduling** — setting it to clean automatically at times you choose, so your floors stay tidy with zero involvement from you.

Setting a schedule

1. In the app, find **Schedule**.
2. **Pick the days and times** — e.g. every weekday at 10 AM, when you're having coffee or out.
3. **Choose what it cleans** if offered (whole home, or certain rooms).
4. Save. From now on, it cleans on schedule, all by itself, and returns to dock.

TIP

Schedule it for when you're out or busy — it's quietest then

A robot vacuum makes some noise (like any vacuum), so many folks schedule it for when they're **out, or busy elsewhere** — mid-morning while running errands, say. You come home to clean floors with no effort and no noise bothering you. Set it once, and tidy floors simply happen on their own, day after day. It's the closest thing to a cleaning fairy you'll find.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Floors that stay clean with no effort at all

With a schedule set, you reach the dream: floors that are simply, reliably clean — tended daily by your little robot while you get on with life — without you ever lifting a finger or even thinking about it. For keeping a home comfortable with the least effort, it's hard to beat. Set the schedule once and enjoy the results for years.

CHAPTER 15

Sending It to Specific Rooms

Once the robot has mapped your home, you can send it to clean **just one room or area** — handy for a quick targeted tidy without running the whole house.

Targeted cleaning

- **Pick a room** in the app — “clean the kitchen” after a messy dinner.
- **Spot clean** — some models clean a specific small area you point to (a spill under the table).
- **Clean several chosen rooms** — select a few and it does just those.

TIP

A quick kitchen clean after dinner — just tap the room

One of the handiest everyday uses: after a crumby meal, instead of running the whole house, just tap **“clean the kitchen”** in the app and the robot zips in, tidies that one room, and heads home. Targeted cleaning like this makes the robot useful for little messes, not just scheduled whole-home runs. Once your map is set, it's a tap away.

CHAPTER 16

Controlling It by Voice

If you have a voice assistant (Alexa, Google Assistant), you can command your robot vacuum hands-free — a lovely convenience, especially when your hands are full or you'd rather not reach for the phone.

Setting up voice

- **Link the robot to your voice assistant** in the Alexa or Google Home app (like linking smart lights — see the Smart Lights manual).
- **Then just ask** — “Alexa, tell the robot to start cleaning,” “Hey Google, send the vacuum home.”
- **Common commands** — start, stop, send home, and (on some) clean a specific room.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

“Start the vacuum” — and it does

There's a real ease in just *saying* “start the vacuum” as you head out the door, or “send the robot home” when company arrives — no phone, no bending to the button. For hands-free convenience, especially as reaching and bending get harder, voice control of your robot is a small daily pleasure. Set it up once, and your floors answer to your voice.

FROM BILL

Let's connect your robot to voice control

Linking your robot vacuum to Alexa or Google so you can start it by voice is a quick, satisfying bit of setup, and lovely for hands-free use. If you'd like to be telling your floors to clean themselves out loud, call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll connect it together. It's one of those small touches that makes the whole thing feel effortless.

CHAPTER 16a

The First Few Weeks

Getting the most from a robot vacuum is partly about the first few weeks — a gentle settling-in period where you and the robot learn each other's habits. Here's how to make that go smoothly.

Easing in together

- **Watch a clean or two** — see where it struggles, gets stuck, or misses, so you know what to adjust.
- **Adjust as you learn** — set no-go zones for trouble spots, tidy habitual snag points.
- **Start with the button, add features gradually** — schedule, then rooms, then voice, as you get comfortable.
- **Give it (and yourself) grace** — the first runs teach you both; it gets smoother fast.

TIP

Watch the first clean — it tells you what to adjust

Rather than setting the robot loose and leaving, **watch its first clean or two**. You'll quickly spot where it gets stuck, what it bumps, and what it misses — and then you can fix those (no-go zones, a tidier floor, moving a wobbly chair). Twenty minutes of observing up front saves weeks of little frustrations. After that, you can happily let it run while you're out.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

A short learning curve, then years of ease

The first couple of weeks ask a little attention — watching, adjusting, learning the robot's quirks. But that modest investment buys *years* of hands-off, tidy floors afterward. Soon you'll barely think about it: it runs on schedule, stays out of trouble, and quietly keeps your home nice. Patience through the short settling-in period pays off handsomely and lastingly.

PART 5

The Map & No-Go Zones

Making the most of the robot's map: understanding it, keeping areas off-limits, naming rooms, and handling homes with more than one floor.

CHAPTER 17

Understanding the Map

On mapping models, the app shows a **map** of your home that the robot built — a little floor plan. Understanding it unlocks the best features, and it's rather satisfying to see.

What the map shows

- **Your home's layout** — rooms and walls, as the robot learned them.
- **Where it has cleaned** — often shown after a run.
- **Where the robot is now**, and its dock.
- **Rooms you can name and target**, and zones you can mark off-limits.

GOOD TO KNOW

The map is how you give the robot smart instructions

The map is more than a picture — it's the control panel for clever cleaning. Because the robot knows your layout, you can tell it “clean the kitchen,” “avoid the dining room,” or “clean everything but the bedroom,” all by tapping the map. Without a map, the robot just roams; with one, it cleans intelligently on your instructions. That's why the mapping run (Part 3) matters so much.

CHAPTER 18

No-Go Zones and Keep-Out Areas

A genuinely useful feature: telling the robot **areas to stay out of** — the pet food bowls, a cord-tangled corner, a room with delicate things. These are **no-go zones**, and you set them on the map.

Setting a no-go zone

1. In the app, open the **map** and look for **No-Go Zones** (or “Keep Out,” “Virtual Walls”).
2. **Draw a box** over the area to avoid — around the pet bowls, say.
3. Save. The robot will now steer clear of that spot on every clean.

TIP

Zone off the pet bowls and any trouble spots

The classic use of a no-go zone is the **pet food and water bowls** — you really don't want the robot bumping those around or (worse) through a spill. Zone them off. Same for a corner full of cords, a pile of toys, or anywhere it tends to get stuck. A few minutes marking trouble spots once makes every future clean smooth and worry-free. Well worth doing after you've watched a clean or two.

HEADS UP

If it keeps getting stuck somewhere, zone it off

Found a spot where the robot repeatedly gets stuck, tangled, or trapped — under a wobbly chair, in a nest of wires? Rather than fighting it, simply draw a **no-go zone** there. It's the tidy solution to a persistent problem: tell the robot to avoid the trouble entirely. Combined with a quick pre-clean tidy, zones make stuck-robot rescues a rare event.

CHAPTER 19

Naming Rooms and Editing the Map

A little map housekeeping makes everything easier — naming your rooms so you (and voice control) can refer to them, and tidying the map if the robot drew something oddly.

Map housekeeping

- **Name your rooms** — “Kitchen,” “Living Room” — so you can say or tap exactly where to clean.
- **Split or merge rooms** if the robot divided them oddly (an open-plan space split in two, say).
- **Re-map if needed** — if you rearrange furniture a lot or the map gets muddled, you can have it learn the home afresh.

TIP

Name rooms the way you'd say them aloud

When naming rooms on the map, use the natural names you'd actually say — “kitchen,” “den,” “back bedroom” — because those are what you'll tap, and what you'll say to voice control (“clean the kitchen”). Clear, natural room names make targeting and voice commands work smoothly. A few minutes naming rooms after the first map pays off every time you use the robot.

CHAPTER 20

Homes with More Than One Floor

A robot cleans one level at a time, but it can remember **multiple floors** — handy if you carry it upstairs to clean there too.

Multi-floor cleaning

- **Most mapping robots store several maps** — one per floor.
- **Carry the robot to the other floor** and start a clean; it recognizes which floor it's on (or you pick the map).
- **A dock per floor** is convenient if you clean upstairs often — otherwise carry it to the dock to recharge.

GOOD TO KNOW

One robot can handle multiple floors — you just carry it up

You don't necessarily need a second robot for a two-story home — one robot can store and clean **multiple floor maps**; you just carry it up or down to the floor you want cleaned. It recognizes the floor and cleans accordingly. If you clean the upper floor often, a spare charging dock up there saves carrying it back down. But for occasional upstairs cleans, one robot does fine.

FROM BILL

Maps and zones fiddly? Let's set them up together

Setting up the map — naming rooms, marking no-go zones, sorting out multiple floors — is where a little help makes the robot *much* smarter and more useful. If the map features seem fiddly, call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll get your map set up so the robot cleans exactly where you want and avoids where you don't. It transforms how well the robot works for you.

CHAPTER 20a

Getting the Whole Home Cleaned Well

A few small habits help your robot clean your *whole* home thoroughly, not just the easy open areas — so you get the best results from every run.

Tips for thorough cleaning

- **Open interior doors** before a clean so it can reach every room.
- **Lift or secure trailing cords and loose rug corners** so it covers those spots instead of avoiding them.
- **Move a light chair occasionally** to let it reach under — or let it do its usual pattern and handle corners yourself now and then.
- **Run it often** — frequent light cleans keep things nicer than rare big ones.

TIP

Open the doors and the robot reaches everywhere

The simplest way to make sure the whole home gets cleaned is to **open the interior doors** before a run — a closed door is a room the robot can't enter. Make it a little habit (or leave doors open on cleaning days), and the robot covers the whole level. Combined with a quick floor tidy, open doors are the key to a thorough, whole-home clean every time.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Run it often, and the whole home stays effortlessly nice

Here's the pleasant secret: the more regularly your robot runs, the cleaner your whole home stays with less effort — frequent light passes prevent dust and hair from ever building up. So rather than one big weekly clean, let it tidy a bit most days. Open the doors, keep the floor clear, and your entire home drifts along in a state of quiet, effortless cleanliness. That's the robot at its best.

PART 6

Keeping It Running

A robot vacuum needs a little regular care to keep working well. Emptying, brushes, filters, and calm fixes for the common “it's stuck” and “it won't dock” troubles.

CHAPTER 21

Emptying the Dirt

What you do here depends on whether you have a self-emptying dock — but either way, emptying is quick and simple.

Emptying, two ways

- **Self-emptying dock:** the dock sucks the dirt from the robot into a big bag automatically. You just **replace the bag every few weeks** when it's full (the app or a light tells you).
- **No self-empty dock:** you **empty the robot's little bin** after each clean (or every couple of cleans) — pop it out, tip it into the trash, slide it back.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Self-emptying means dealing with dirt every few weeks, not daily

This is why folks love the self-emptying dock: instead of emptying a small bin after every single clean, you simply swap a bag every few weeks. The robot unloads itself into the dock each time it returns. For truly low-effort floors — clean daily, emptied monthly — it's the feature that makes the whole thing feel genuinely hands-off. A small luxury that earns its keep.

CHAPTER 22

Brushes, Filters & Regular Care

Like any vacuum, a robot needs a little upkeep to keep cleaning well. None of it is hard, and a few minutes now and then keeps it running for years.

The regular care

Part	Care
The brushes	Clear tangled hair/threads from the roller and side brush every week or two (a little tool often comes with it).
The filter	Tap out or replace the dust filter regularly (every month or two); keeps suction strong.
The sensors & wheels	Wipe the sensors and wheels occasionally so it navigates well.
The bin	Rinse the bin now and then (dry fully before refitting) if it's washable.
Replace consumables	Brushes, filters, bags, and mop pads wear out — replace every few months.

TIP

Clearing hair from the brush is the main regular chore

The one bit of upkeep that matters most, especially with pets or long hair, is **clearing tangled hair from the main brush** every week or two — hair wraps around it and hurts cleaning. Most robots come with a little cutting tool for exactly this, and it takes two minutes. Keep the brush clear and the filter clean, and your robot keeps cleaning well for years. It's the robot-vacuum equivalent of emptying the bag.

CHAPTER 23

When It Gets Stuck

Every robot occasionally gets stuck — wedged under furniture, tangled in a cord, trapped in a tight spot. It's normal, and easily prevented and resolved.

Handling a stuck robot

- **The app usually tells you** it's stuck and roughly where — go free it.
- **Free it gently** — unwrap a cord, lift it over a threshold, and set it down; it often resumes.
- **Prevent repeats** — tidy the floor before cleaning, and **zone off** trouble spots (Part 5).
- **Common culprits:** cords, loose rug tassels, socks, low wobbly furniture, dark thick rugs.

TIP

A quick floor tidy prevents most stuck-robot moments

The best cure for a stuck robot is prevention: a **30-second floor pickup** before it runs — cords off the floor, socks and small items up, loose rug corners sorted — heads off the vast majority of tangles. Combine that with no-go zones for persistent trouble spots, and stuck-robot rescues become rare. A little tidying habit, and the robot roams freely and happily.

CHAPTER 24

Common Errors and Fixes

When the robot misbehaves, the cause is usually simple. Here are the common ones and their fixes.

Everyday fixes

Problem	Try this
Won't dock / find home	Give the dock clear space; clean the robot's and dock's charging contacts; make sure the dock's powered.
Weak suction / leaving dirt	Empty the bin; clean the filter and brushes of tangled hair.
Won't connect to app/Wi-Fi	Restart the robot and your router; keep it near the router; re-add it in the app.
Keeps getting stuck	Tidy the floor; set no-go zones; check for low furniture it jams under.
Short run time	Battery weakens over years; clean contacts; a very dirty filter strains it.

TIP

Dirty contacts are a common ‘won't charge’ culprit

If the robot isn't charging or docking reliably, check the metal **charging contacts** on both the robot and the dock — dust or grime there can block the connection. Wipe them gently with a dry cloth. Along with giving the dock clear space, this fixes most “it won't charge” or “it didn't make it home” troubles. A simple wipe, and it docks happily again.

FROM BILL

Robot acting up? Let's troubleshoot together

If your robot vacuum is misbehaving — won't connect, won't dock, leaving dirt, getting stuck — don't assume it's broken. These are nearly always simple fixes: a clean brush, a wiped contact, a tidy floor, a reconnected app. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll sort it out together and get your little helper back to keeping your floors clean.

CHAPTER 24a

Battery and Long-Term Care

A robot vacuum, well cared for, lasts many years. A little understanding of its battery and long-term upkeep keeps it going strong and spares you surprises.

For a long, healthy life

- **Leave it on the dock** when not cleaning — it's designed to rest there, charged and ready; this is good for it.
- **Run it regularly** — batteries stay healthiest with regular use, not long idle stretches.
- **Keep the contacts clean** so it charges fully.
- **After years,** the battery (like any) weakens — many models have replaceable batteries to refresh it.

GOOD TO KNOW

Leaving it docked is good for it — no need to unplug

Unlike older gadgets, a robot vacuum is **meant to live on its dock**, charged and ready, between cleans — that's its happy resting state, and it's good for the battery. You don't need to unplug it or take it off the dock. Just leave it home base, let it run its schedule, and it looks after its own charging. Simple, and exactly how it's designed to work.

TIP

Going away for a while? A couple of simple steps

If you'll be away for an extended trip, you can leave the robot docked and plugged in as usual (fine for most), or for a long absence, some folks power the dock off and store the robot charged. Empty the bin and clean the brush before you go so nothing sits. Nothing fancy — just a tidy-up. On your return, it's ready to resume keeping your floors clean.

CHAPTER 24b

When to Repair, Replace, or Upgrade

After several years of good service, you may wonder whether to repair, replace a part, or upgrade. A little guidance helps you decide sensibly.

Deciding what to do

- **Consumables wearing out** (brush, filter, battery, pads) — just replace them; cheap, and the robot's good as new.
- **A specific part broken** — often replaceable on major brands; worth it for a robot you like.
- **Old and struggling, or you want new features** — newer models map better, empty themselves, mop; an upgrade may be worthwhile after many years.
- **Check warranty** — a newer robot with trouble may still be covered.

TIP

Most ‘dying’ robots just need a fresh part

Before concluding a robot vacuum is worn out, consider that many “dying” ones simply need a **fresh consumable** — a new battery, filter, or brush — to work like new again, for a modest cost. Weak cleaning, short runtime, or poor docking are often just a tired part, not a dead robot. Replacing a part is cheaper and greener than a new machine. When in doubt, check the simple things first.

FROM BILL

Not sure whether to fix or replace? Ask me

Deciding whether an aging robot vacuum is worth a new part or ready for replacement — and if replacing, what's a good value now — is exactly the sort of thing I'm glad to advise on honestly, with no pressure to buy. Call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll figure out the sensible, economical path for your situation. Often a cheap part brings it right back to life.

PART 7

Mopping, Pets & Peace of Mind

Getting good results from mopping models, living with a robot vacuum and pets, and honest answers on the privacy and security of a connected, sometimes camera-equipped gadget.

CHAPTER 25

Mopping Models

Many robots also **mop** hard floors — a damp pad wipes the floor after (or while) vacuuming. It won't replace a deep scrub, but for daily freshening of hard floors, it's a nice bonus.

Mopping basics

- **Fill the water tank** (with plain water, or a cleaner the maker approves — check the manual).
- **Attach the mop pad** (and remove it when you don't want mopping, so it doesn't drag a wet pad over carpet).
- **It mops hard floors** and avoids carpet (better models lift the mop or skip carpet automatically).
- **Rinse or replace the pad** after use so it stays fresh.

GOOD TO KNOW

Mopping is a light freshen, not a deep scrub

Set expectations: robot mopping gives hard floors a **light daily wipe** — lovely for keeping them fresh and lifting everyday dust and small marks — but it won't scrub out stuck-on messes or replace an occasional proper mopping. Used for daily upkeep, it keeps floors noticeably nicer. Premium models with self-washing mop pads do better, but any mopping robot is a pleasant bonus for hard-floor homes.

HEADS UP

Take the mop pad off before it runs over carpet

If your robot mops but doesn't automatically lift the pad or avoid carpet, **remove the wet mop pad** before a run that includes carpeted areas — or it'll drag dampness across your rugs. Many newer models handle this themselves (lifting the mop or skipping carpet), but check how yours works. On simpler models, just pop the pad off for carpet days. A small habit that keeps your rugs dry.

CHAPTER 26

Robot Vacuums and Pets

Robot vacuums and pets are a wonderful match — the daily pet-hair pickup is a top reason people love them — with just a couple of things to know.

Pets and robots

- **Fantastic for pet hair** — daily cleaning keeps shed hair from building up.
- **Zone off the food and water bowls** (Part 5) so it doesn't disturb or spill them.
- **Clear the brush of pet hair** more often — the main regular chore with pets.
- **Pets usually get used to it** — some are wary at first, most soon ignore it.

HEADS UP

With pets, consider obstacle-avoiding models

One honest caution for pet owners: a basic robot can run *through* a pet accident, making a mess far worse. If that's a risk in your home, it's worth choosing a model with good **obstacle avoidance** (which can see and steer around such messes), and scheduling cleans for when you're home to keep an eye out at first. For most pet homes, though, the daily hair-pickup is a huge win.

CHAPTER 27

Privacy and Cameras

Some robot vacuums have **cameras** (for navigation and obstacle avoidance) and all connect to the internet — which raises fair questions about privacy. Here's an honest look.

The honest picture

- **Camera models** use the camera to see and navigate; the images generally stay for the robot's own use, but it is a camera in your home.
- **Many robots have no camera** — they map with a spinning laser (LiDAR) instead, which "sees" shapes, not pictures. A good choice if cameras concern you.
- **All connect to Wi-Fi**, so securing your account and Wi-Fi matters (next chapter).

GOOD TO KNOW

Prefer no camera? Choose a laser-mapping model

If the idea of a camera roaming your home doesn't sit well — a perfectly reasonable feeling — you can simply choose a robot that navigates with a **spinning laser (LiDAR)** instead of a camera. These map your home's *shape* without taking any pictures, and many excellent models work this way. You get great mapping and cleaning with no camera in the house. It's a valid preference, and easy to accommodate when choosing.

STAY SAFE

Secure the account that controls your robot

Since your robot connects to the internet and holds a map of your home, protect the **account** that controls it: a strong, unique password, and two-step verification if offered. Keep your home Wi-Fi secure too (see the Mesh Wi-Fi manual). And be wary of any unsolicited "support" contact about your smart devices — a scam. Sensible security, and your robot stays yours alone.

CHAPTER 28

A Simple Routine for Happy Floors

To wrap up, here's the low-effort routine that keeps your robot — and your floors — happy for years. Mostly it runs itself; you just lend a hand now and then.

The easy routine

- **Let it run on schedule** — the floors stay clean on their own.
- **Quick floor tidy** before cleans to prevent tangles.
- **Empty the bag / bin** — every few weeks (self-empty) or per clean (basic).
- **Clear the brush of hair** every week or two; clean the filter monthly.
- **Replace consumables** (filter, brush, bags, pads) every few months.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Clean floors, almost entirely on their own

That's the happy reality once it's set up: your floors stay tidy, tended by a little robot that mostly looks after itself, asking only for an occasional brush-clean and a bag swap. For keeping a comfortable home with the least physical effort, it's a genuine gift — especially as bending and pushing a vacuum get harder. Set it up well, and enjoy floors that clean themselves.

FROM BILL

Whenever your robot puzzles you, I'm a call away

You've learned a great deal about your robot vacuum, but you'll never be expected to know every quirk — that's what I'm here for. Setup, maps, a stubborn error, a new one to configure — call me at (330) 200-8042 and we'll sort it out calmly, and keep your little helper keeping your floors clean for years to come.

PART 8

When to Call Bill & Your Cheat-Sheet

An honest word about when a hand helps — and a one-page cheat-sheet to keep handy.

CHAPTER 29

When to Call Bill

This book is here so you can enjoy your robot vacuum with confidence. But part of being truly helpful is being honest about when a hand saves you time and frustration. Here's when I'd pick up the phone.

Good reasons to call

- You'd like help **choosing** the right robot for your home and budget.
- You want help with **setup** — the app, Wi-Fi, the first mapping run.
- You'd like your **map, rooms, and no-go zones** set up properly.
- You want to connect it to **voice control**.
- It **won't connect, won't dock, or keeps getting stuck** and the simple fixes didn't help.
- A message about your “smart device” **feels like a scam** — let's check.

Things you can handle yourself

Starting a clean, setting a schedule, sending it to a room, emptying it, clearing the brush, and freeing a stuck robot — these are all yours now. Use this book as your refresher, and remember you can't break it by trying.

FROM BILL

How I like to help

I'm Bill, and I've spent 30+ years helping folks feel at home with their technology, right here in Portage County, Ohio. Getting a robot vacuum set up — connected, mapped, scheduled — so it quietly keeps someone's floors clean without strain is genuinely satisfying work, especially when it spares a sore back. No rushing, no talking down, no question too small. Call **(330) 200-8042** or book at **billshometech.com/book**.

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Clean floors, and a chore lifted from your shoulders

The goal of all this is simple: floors that stay nice with no effort from you, and one physically demanding chore taken off your plate for good. For comfort, for your back, for keeping a tidy home with ease as the years go by — a well-set-up robot vacuum earns its keep every single day. You've learned how to make it work for you, and that's well worth it.

Thank you for letting me help you put your little robot helper to work. You've learned how to choose, set up, run, map, maintain, and troubleshoot it. Keep this book handy, give the floors a quick tidy before it runs, and don't be a stranger.

— Bill

CHAPTER 30

Your Robot-Vacuum Cheat-Sheet

Keep this handy. The essentials, all in one place.

Everyday moves

To do this	Do this
Start a clean	Press the Clean button, tap Clean in the app, or say it to your voice assistant.
Set a schedule	App → Schedule → pick days/times. Set and forget.
Clean one room	App → tap the room on the map.
Send it home	Press the button again, or 'Dock' in the app.
Avoid an area	App → map → No-Go Zone → draw a box.

Regular care

- **Empty** the bag (every few weeks) or bin (per clean).
- **Clear hair** from the brush every week or two.
- **Clean the filter** monthly; **replace** consumables every few months.
- **Wipe the charging contacts** if it won't dock/charge.

Common fixes

Problem	Try this
Keeps getting stuck	Tidy the floor first; set no-go zones.
Won't dock/charge	Clear space around dock; wipe the contacts.
Weak suction	Empty bin; clean filter and brush.
Won't connect	Restart robot & router; keep it near the router.

Keep these handy

My details	
My robot brand & app	Roomba / Roborock / eufy (circle one)
My account email	_____
Bill's Home Tech	(330) 200-8042 · billshometech.com/book

WHAT THIS DOES FOR YOU

Let the robot do the vacuuming

Look what you can do now: send your little robot off to clean the floors — by button, app, or voice — set it to run on its own, keep it out of trouble, and keep it running for years. One tiring chore, quietly handled for you. Be proud, keep this book close, and enjoy your clean floors.

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