

# How to install a dash cam

There are two options to installing a dash cam, the easiest is the 12v cigarette lighter dash cam installation, but the neatest is using a hardwire kit.

## Option 1: Cigarette Lighter Power Supply

To install your dash cam with a 12V power supply (cigarette lighter):

- Using the 4m power cable provided, guide the cable around your windscreen.
- Tuck the cable neatly across the top of the windscreen and down the side (as seen in the below images) to keep the cable out of eyesight and tidier. In virtually all vehicles there is a small gap between the roof lining and the windscreen, the Nextbase power cable has been designed to push neatly into this gap.
- Place the suction cup onto the windscreen, for most vehicles this will be just behind the rear view mirror on the passenger side. If you have a black "spotted" area on the windscreen please make sure that the mount is not touching this. This location captures the best view of the road and the dash cam remains safe and out of the line of sight.



Positives of using the cigarette lighter as a power source:

- Plug in and go
- Easy to connect/disconnect if you drive multiple cars
- Power supply can easily be found

Negatives of using the cigarette lighter as a power

- You need a spare 12v cigarette lighter socket
- The cable is visible at the point where it goes into the cigarette lighter socket.

## Option 2: Hardwire The Dash Cam

If you're looking for ways on how to hide dashcam wires for a neater installation, you can choose to hardwire your dash cam in by using the Nextbase Hardwire Kit, which is done via a quick and easy fuse box connection.

To hard wire a dash cam:

- Position the dash cam and suction mount in a place to capture best view of the road
- Tuck the cable neatly across the top of the windscreen and down the side (as seen in the below images) to keep the cable out of eyesight and tidier. In virtually all vehicles there is a small gap between the roof lining and the windscreen, the Nextbase power cable has been designed to push neatly into this gap.
- Find the fuse box that is usually inside or underneath the glove box.



- Remove an existing fuse (usually cigarette lighter socket fuse) and insert the specially provided socket straight into the fuse box. The old fuse simply "piggy backs" onto the new connection.



- Connect the earth cable to the chassis via any metal screw/bolt that is in direct contact.



Hardwiring can take just 20 minutes and can be very useful – especially if you are keen to keep your existing cigarette lighter socket free and the cables out of sight. It can also be useful if you wish to have your dash cam permanently recording.

Positives of hardwiring a Dash Cam:

- Neatly hidden – virtually no wires in sight
- Always connected, so you never need to worry about knocking the cigarette lighter socket
- Frees up cigarette lighter for other uses e.g. charging phone

Negatives of hardwiring a Dash Cam:

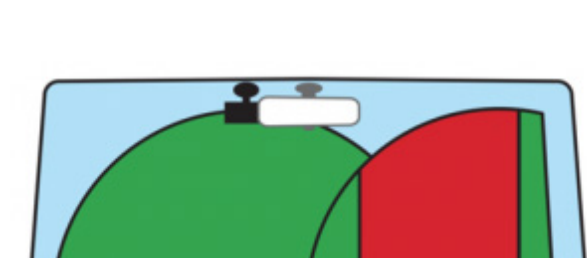
- Slightly longer install time (approx. 20 minutes)
- May need professional help to hardwire

## Where should I mount my Dash Cam?

All Nextbase dash cams come with a guide and advice on where to locate your new in car camera. It shouldn't obscure your view as a driver, or be a distraction. All of our dash cams have the option to turn off the screen when you are driving.

Tip – If your car has the black tinted dots on the windscreen it can make placing the suction mount tricky so avoid this area of the windscreen.

It's important that you install the dash cam so it does NOT obstruct the drivers view of the road, preferably on the passenger side of the vehicle and behind the rear view mirror. Whilst the dash cam clearly needs to view through the windscreen in an area swept by the windscreen wipers, the dash cam should be installed so as not to intrude significantly within the wiped areas shown in the image below.



# What to look for when buying a dash cam?



With so many people seeing the benefits of owning a dash cam it's not surprising that there are lots of different models to choose from to suit all budgets and requirements. We are going to look at the key components to help you choose the right cam for you.

If you are buying a dash cam the most important feature is video quality. If a camera can capture a number plate then it can prove vital should you need it as evidence. Generally more expensive cameras have better video quality thanks to their better sensors and lenses.

- **High Resolution**  
At the heart of every dash cam is the sensor. This turns the light coming into the lens into data to make up the video. Nextbase work directly with the top sensor manufacturers like Sony to get the very best quality sensors, which is key to providing that crystal clear image.

- **Storage**  
All Nextbase dash cams save the footage to a MicroSD card, and due to the high quality of data that is being written to this card it is essential that a high speed, good quality card is used. We recommend the SanDisk brand of card, at least class 10.

A 32GB card can store approximately 4 hours of footage, which for most people is more than enough due to the fact that the camera loops and will always have your last 4 hours of driving. However the top of the range cameras can take cards up to 128GB.

- **Sensors**  
At the heart of every dash cam is the sensor. This turns the light coming into the lens into data to make up the video. Nextbase work directly with the top sensor manufacturers like Sony to get the very best quality sensors, which is key to providing that crystal clear image.

- **Wide Dynamic Range and High Dynamic Range**  
These two features are one of the key reasons that Nextbase dash cams are reviewed so highly versus other brands and are able to provide clear images at night and in bright conditions.

**Wide Dynamic Range (WDR)** found in the **312GW** and above, allows the dash cam to combine multiple images at different levels of brightness to create one improved image. So if you are driving in the shade, then come out into the sun the cam will automatically adjust the video to make sure it is always recording the optimum image.

**High Dynamic Range (HDR)** found in the **512GW** and above and similar to WDR it allows the camera to process more light on the sensor, and therefore produce a more vibrant image. This is a special process achieved on the latest CMOS sensors that can achieve amazing footage in difficult light conditions such as bright sun or night time driving.

- **Wi-Fi**  
**Wi-Fi** is included on any Nextbase dash cam that has a "W" in the model number, such as the 312GW and this allows you to view and transfer the files directly to your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS) without the need to connect the dash cam to a PC.

This makes it easy to review footage if you ever have an incident and send it directly to your insurer using the free [Nextbase Cam Viewer App](#).

- **Mounting System**  
The Click & Go powered magnetic mount is exclusive to Nextbase and was designed by our team in the UK to make fitting your dash cam simple and easy.

By having the car power cable going into the mount it means that the dash cam itself can be wireless, it simply slots in and out of the mount with ease with the aid of inbuilt magnets.

# What is a Dash Cam, and how do they work?

## What is a dash cam?

A dash cam is a small, windscreen-mounted, in-car camera recording everything in front and in some instances the rear of a driver. It can be a motorist's independent witness when involved in an incident, while also saving motorists money on their insurance.

Most dash cams also feature Parking Mode, which can record incidents and act as a deterrent against theft and damage whilst you're away from your vehicle.

## How does a dash cam work?

A dash cam is mounted onto the windscreen and records the road when you are driving. It's powered via the cigarette lighter cable or can be hardwired into the fuse box. The dash cam starts recording automatically when the ignition key is turned. It records on a continuous loop, with each clip filmed on a short 3-minute segment onto a micro SD card.

## Should I get a Dash Cam?

Dash Cams can bring many benefits to its users with just a few listed below:

- Protection whilst parked with Parking Mode
- Tackle Crime and Bad Motorists
- Resolve disputes from incidents quicker
- Encourages better driving

## Are dash cams legal?

Using a dashboard camera is legal in the US if it does not restrict the drivers view and is not used to intrude upon someone's privacy. If you're a taxi or private hire driver, it is advised to keep sound recording muted to avoid any breaches of personal privacy.

## Do dash cams record at night?

All dash cams record at night, but as light levels get low, certain technologies like WDR and HDR really help to create a significantly improved clarity in night vision.

If you do a lot of driving at night, then we would recommend looking at dash cams that have the latest Sony EXMOR sensors for ultimate night vision and enhanced picture quality.

## Do dash cams work when parked?

Yes, dash cams can be used when your vehicle is parked. In order to record when you're not driving your dash cam will need power from a hardwire installation or from its battery if it has Intelligent parking mode.

The Nextbase 512GW models and above have intelligent parking mode that means that a full hardwire installation is not required to record when parked. These models detect when your car is bumped in the car park and automatically record at this point.

## Where is dash cam footage stored?

Dash cam footage is recorded onto a micro SD card. When this card is full the camera will automatically loop and record over the oldest 3-minute file.

Footage can be transferred onto a computer, phone or tablet & stored permanently. All our dash cams record high quality footage to protect you and your vehicle and offers peace of mind whilst out on the road.

How much video can 16GB SD card hold?

A Dash Cam can hold approximately up to two hours' worth of recording on a 16GB Micro SD card before it overwrites the oldest recordings. This is when the Dash Cam is set at 1080p HD to record at 30 frames per second. This will provide enough room to capture any incidents and help prove you were not at fault.

How much video can a 32GB SD card hold?

A 32GB card can hold up to four hours' worth of dash cam footage when recording at 720p HD, or full 1080p HD at 30 frames per second. It will record approximately two hours' worth of footage when recording at 1440p Quad HD footage. This will provide enough room to capture any incidents before the SD card loops over and overwrites older recordings.

## What happens to dash cam footage after an accident?

Dash cams are fitted with sensors that detect crash impact. If you have an accident, any recording leading up to this point is saved and the files are automatically "locked" so they cannot be overwritten.

# Do Dash Cams reduce insurance premiums?

Your Dash Cam provides record of accidents, encourages safer driving knowing you're being recorded and can even help you prove your innocence in traffic violations – but did you know that it can also save you money on your insurance premiums?

## How do Dash Cams help reduce insurance premiums?

Many top U.S. insurers, including State Farm, Nationwide, Progressive, Geico, and others, already accept Dash Cam footage as part of their claims process, with the cameras serving as independent witnesses for motorists in the event of a traffic incident. With the highest quality Dash Cam footage on hand, users can speed up the prolonged insurance claim process immensely, saving claims departments significant time and budgetary expenses.

Today, we're in the process of taking those savings even further. Overseas, Nextbase was the first Dash Cam manufacturer to partner with insurance agencies in creating an inclusive Dash Cam discount, whereby consumers would have money deducted off of their insurance premium by using a Nextbase Dash Cam. With the upcoming launch of the new Series 2 range of Dash Cams in late Spring 2019, we have our eyes set firmly on partnerships with top US insurers to recreate this policy in the US soon.

## How can Dash Cam footage help save money on an insurance claim?

Reliable, high-quality Dash Cam footage can have a powerful impact on the outcome of many common split-liability insurance claims. Previously, drivers didn't have a way to show that they'd been operating their vehicle safely and according to the law in the moments before an incident occurred.

Dash Cam footage can stand in as a witness of safe driving behavior, and even change the outcome of a traffic incident to a non-fault. Moreover, insurers can resolve claims with Dash Cam footage up to 50% quicker than without, meaning that a vehicle can get back on the road much sooner than the average standard motor claim time of 248 days.

This, coupled with the fact that "crash for cash" incidents are on the rise, means that insurers are increasing emphasis on the importance of Dash Cams to stand as the most accurate source of evidence in the event of an incident. The Coalition Against Insurance Fraud (CAIF) found that roughly 35% of insurance companies say fraud costs them 5%-10% in claim volume, and more than 30% say fraud losses cost 10%-20% of their claim volume. With Dash Cams helping to defend against fraudulent claims, everyone saves time and frustration: safe drivers and insurers alike.

## How else is Dash Cam footage helpful?

By providing evidence of dangerous drivers on the road to insurers, and even the authorities, you're helping to keep the roads safer for other motorists. Recent studies by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show that in total, American households experienced a staggering 80 billion in loss and damages each year, unmistakable proof that there is an overwhelming need in the US to improve motorist's safety and overall experience on the road.