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CAPTURING MEMORIES

Our writer takes the new Toyota Genuine Dash Camera accessory for a spin and finds fun new ways to record adventures along her journey

BY HEATHER HUDSON







s assignments go, writing about my adventures putting the Toyota Genuine Dash Camera through its paces was a pretty great one. Cruising through my neighbourhood, zipping into the heart of downtown and taking it slow in the countryside, the Dash Camera offered unique perspectives I wouldn't otherwise have noticed.

Apart from its usefulness at recording any unfortunate traffic incidents, it also provides limitless footage of shareable moments throughout the day — a perfect complement for our mobile-friendly world.

One of the first things I noticed about the new Toyota Genuine Dash Camera is how unobtrusive it is. Tucked behind the rearview mirror with no dangling wires, you wouldn't know it's there unless you're looking for it.

Designed to continuously record whenever the car's ignition is on, the 8 GB industrial-grade memory card will capture footage on a two-hour loop, recording over the earliest footage when the card gets full.

A toggle on the side of the Dash Camera allows you to record with or without sound at any time. With only one button, no screen to distract you, and one switch to turn the microphone on/off, it's safe and easy to operate while you're driving.

RECORDING IS EASY

There are two ways you can record specific events:

Interesting Event Recording: By pressing the action button once, you'll automatically save what the Dash Camera recorded 12 seconds before and 8 seconds after you press the button. This feature is ideal to capture any traffic incidents or special moments.

Adventure Mode: When you press and hold the action button, the Dash Camera beeps three times to let you know you're now in adventure mode. This mode is used capture and save adventures from your road trip. You can then upload using the companion Dash Camera app on your phone or the downloadable software on your computer. When you think you've captured the footage you want to save, simply hold the button again and listen for three beeps to exit adventure mode. You can record for up to one hour in adventure mode.

There are also two modes that lock footage automatically with no user input: Incident Recording mode; triggered by a collision and Parking Surveillance mode that automatically records if the vehicle is disturbed or struck while parked.

OTHER FUN WAYS TO USE THE DASH CAMERA

Having a Dash Camera record everywhere you go opens up lots of possibilities. Here are a few ideas:

Send updates while on vacation.

Answer those "How's the vacation going?" texts and emails with a video clip from a rest stop on the road. The Toyota Genuine Dash Camera allows the option of date, time and location stamping on each photo and video. You also have the convenience of being able to post to social media straight from the app.

Make memorable vacation videos.

Our experiment with recording our in-vehicle conversations opened up a world of possibilities. With the flick of a button, it's possible to turn on or off the mic to capture singalongs, travel word games and even the requisite navigation arguments inherent in every road trip. (Bonus: your footage will reveal who's right.)

Create a scavenger hunt.

Use the Dash Camera to capture scenery, statues, signs or other guideposts around your community. Share by mobile phone with players. Armed only with your pics or videos, participants are directed to hit the road on a quest to take the same photos/videos to complete the challenge.

Become a better driver.

The Toyota Genuine Dash Camera footage offers intelligence on the driver's speed and driving style. If you question the habits of a younger driver in the house, you can scan your Dash Camera footage to look for things like following too closely or speeding. Review the video together to identify safer ways to navigate the road. (You can even track their journey if you're feeling a bit suspicious.)

Make time lapse videos.

Want to show your friends an epic journey? Upload your footage using the software or the app and create a time-lapse video using your own editing software. Post it to social media and, voila! Watch the "likes" pour in.



URBAN ADVENTURE

First stop: Capture the city. From the quiet, leafy streets of our neighbourhood to the electric excitement of downtown, my family and I got caught up in the spirit of the metropolis in eye-opening new ways.

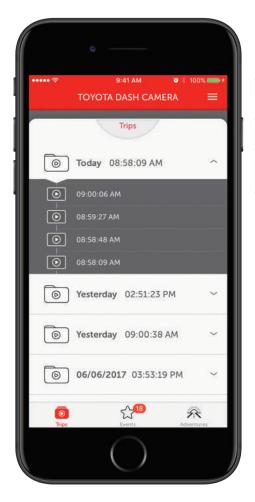
Playing tourists in our own city helped us appreciate the landmarks that give it personality. We also realized how fun it would be to take the Dash Camera on a long road trip filled with iconic scenery.



COUNTRY ROADS TAKE ME HOME

On a drive into the country, I instinctively began to chide the kids to give the tablet and the texting a break, but when I glanced through the rearview mirror, I found attentive eyes blinking back at me. For a digital generation, knowing that we were getting great footage of our drive clearly made them automatically more engaged in the passing scenery.

My teenager was no doubt thinking about what she'd choose to include in her Snapchat story and my son was on the lookout for cool things he might upload to his YouTube page. My husband and I were thrilled to be able to record some funny conversations through the Dash Camera's microphone. We knew the audio and video footage will provide priceless mementos of this time in our lives.







TECH-SAVVINESS NOT REQUIRED

When we were done recording, the process of reviewing, saving and sharing videos was a breeze. The Dash Camera comes with a mobile app and its own Wifi hotspot so you can connect, save and share from the road — when you're safely parked, of course.

You can also pop the memory card into your

computer and use the Toyota Genuine Dash Camera software to save and share your videos later. Choose to reveal the date, time, driving speed and latitude/longitude so you'll have all the details of every drive.

Connected to Google Maps, it's easy to sort through your footage by location to pinpoint

which part of the video you want to review.

The Toyota Genuine Dash Camera will be available as a dealer-installed accessory for certain 2017 and newer models.

It's a fun and playful way to record lots of road trip memories to share with friends and family alike!



ACCESS YOUR ADVENTURES



Available software for the Toyota Genuine Dash Camera lets you review all the action from your daily commute or family road trips.

The software neatly organizes the video clips, from interesting events and adventure mode footage, to any incidents that might have happened while your Toyota was parked using parking surveillance mode.

The software also records the speed, location and g-force logged for any incidents, making it easy to document and retrieve details for exactly what happened at any point along your journey.