

Amazon Alexa, Echo & Fire TV | Easy | 2 min read

Echo Show camera and privacy shutter, and how to turn the microphone off

Please note: independent guidance. Vision Tech is not affiliated with the maker. Menus differ between models and software versions, so check the manual or on-screen help.

You are always in control of an Echo's microphone, and an Echo Show's camera. There are physical controls on the device itself, as well as settings in the app.

The microphone button

Every Echo has a microphone button, normally on the top. Press it once. The light turns solid red. This means the device microphone is disconnected and Alexa is not listening. Press it again to turn it back on.

If you turn the microphone off, Alexa will not answer your voice, and alarms may still sound. You will need to press the button to use voice again.

The camera on an Echo Show

Echo Show models usually have a camera, with a sliding cover or a camera button, depending on the model. If your Show has a shutter, slide it across to block the lens. Some Shows have a button that switches off the camera and the microphones together. When the red light is on, on camera-equipped devices video will not be shared. Check your model's booklet for where yours is.

Where the camera is used

The camera can be used for video calls and, if you allow it, for Drop In. You choose who can contact you in the app's Communication settings. Menu names in the Alexa app change from time to time, so if yours looks slightly different, look for the closest wording rather than worrying.

Good habits

- Close the shutter when you are not on a call, or if the Show is in a bedroom or bathroom.
- Do not put Echo devices in places you would find uncomfortable being overheard.
- If you are having a private conversation and want certainty, press the microphone button until you see the red ring.

When to get more help

If your camera shutter or microphone button seems stuck, or the ring stays red, restart the Echo first. If the problem remains, contact the shop or Amazon for a replacement, or ask Vision Tech for advice.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.