

## How to delete all data from old phone

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How do i erase all data from old iphone. Delete data from old cell phone. How to remove all data from old phone.

So a new Android phone or tablet has just caught your attention, and you are looking to upgrade to the latest one as quickly as possible. But what do you do with your old device? There are a number of options available. You may want to give it away, trade it in with your carrier, put it up for sale, or recycle it. Whatever decision you take, it's important that all your personal data is wiped clean before disposing of it. You don't want to accidentally pass on your personal information to someone else. Leaving personal details on your old device may expose you to security and privacy risks. So, how do you properly wipe your data off your old Android device without running the risk of leaving remnant data? Is it enough to just delete the files or do a factory reset? Basic file deletion and factory reset are not enough. A lot of people perform a factory reset to wipe everything off their Android device, before disposing or reselling it. But the problem is, a factory reset doesn't really delete everything. According to a recent study by the University of Hertfordshire in conjunction with Comparitech, it was found that it's still possible to recover photos, emails, text and other documents from a reset Android device. Contrary to popular belief, when you delete a file from your phone memory, SD card, or computer hard disk for that matter, the file isn't actually removed. Permanent data erasure goes beyond basic file deletion commands, which only remove direct pointers to the data disk sectors, and make data recovery possible with common software tools. The operating system (Android, Windows, etc) uses a concept called indexing to keep track of where files are stored in a device. Each file on your device memory or storage has a pointer that tells the OS where the file's data begins and ends. It's a lot like the index page in textbooks. When you delete a file, the OS removes the pointer to that file (akin to erasing page numbers from the table of content of a textbook) and marks the sectors containing the file's data as available. From the file system's point of view, the file is no longer present on your storage device, and the sectors containing its data are considered free space. However, until the OS writes new data over the sectors containing the contents of the file, the files are still recoverable. A file recovery program can scan the device for these deleted files and restore them. So if you are considering disposing of your old Android device, make sure you wipe your personal data the right way. In this article, we'll show you how to securely wipe your personal data off your old Android device before selling or recycling it, to ensure it doesn't have any remnant of personal data. Outlined below are five important steps you need to take to securely wipe your data and counter data remanence. We'll take you through each step in detail. Here's how to wipe your Android phone completely before selling: Backup your data Encrypt your data Overwrite with junk data Remove your accounts, SIM and memory card Perform factory reset Backup your data The importance of backing up everything on your phone before wiping it cannot be overemphasized. Ideally, if Backup to Google Drive is turned on, device settings, apps and app data, SMS, call history, and contacts are automatically backed up and synced with Google Drive. Otherwise, you need to manually back them up. Here's how to backup your data on any Android device: You don't have to worry much about backing up your email. You can easily recreate it on your new device. Most email setups keep copies of downloaded emails on the server. If you're not certain about it, just log on to your email on another device to confirm the backups on the server. When it comes to apps, Google has a record of all the Android apps you've purchased. So long as you're going to another Android device, you can download them again to your new phone at no charge. Better still, Google can also help you sync all your apps to your account. If you don't have it already enabled, you can enable it by going to Settings >> Accounts >> Enable Automatically Sync Data. After that's done, move to Settings >> System >> Backup >> Enable Backup to Google Drive. Some apps may have their own specific cloud backup storage. Others like WhatsApp rely on Google Drive, if enabled. This will ensure all your data is ready to be unpacked when your new phone arrives. One of the most important things you should back up is your contacts. Fortunately, Google makes it really easy to backup. By backing up everything to Google contacts, your contacts will follow you everywhere and sync with every new Android device. If you are not already using Google contacts, you can set it up by going to Settings >> Accounts >> Google Account >> Account Sync >> Enable Contacts. Please see Figure 1.0 below. Another important piece of data you want to backup are your photos, videos and music. There are a couple of ways to do this but the fastest and most effective is to connect your phone to your PC or Mac using the USB cable that came with your phone. Mac users may need to install a small app called Android File Transfer to get this working. Once connected, you'll find all of your photos and videos in a folder called DCIM, and your music files in a folder called Music. Now you can just copy those folders over to your computer. What about all your text messages, call logs, system settings, calendar events, playlists, browser bookmarks, etc? To back up these, you may consider a third-party backup tool such as Backup Your Mobile or My Backup Pro, which allows you to backup your stuff to the cloud or to your memory card and to sync it back over to your new device. Encrypt your data Encryption renders your personal data in your device in an unreadable or scrambled format; which means that even if someone tries to restore your data, they won't be able to access it. This step is necessary to ensure that if by some miracle, a skilled hacker does manage to get hold of your erased data or some residue left behind after a total reset, they will not be able to make sense of it. Anyone attempting to access the encrypted data will need a special key (PIN, password, or lock screen pattern) to decrypt it, which of course they don't have. Most Android users rarely encrypt their phone data, probably due to either ignorance or fear of performance degradation. According to an estimate, only "10 percent of the world's 1.4 billion Android phones were encrypted, compared to 95 percent of all iPhones." But these days, it seems newer Android devices come with encryption enabled by default. If your device is reasonably recent (Android 6.0 and above), it should almost certainly be encrypted by default. But if you're getting rid of an older Android device, it might not be. If your phone doesn't have encryption enabled by default, you can encrypt it manually with just a few taps: For Android devices running Android 5.0, navigate to Settings >> Security >> Encryption >> Encrypt phone. For Android 4.4 KitKat or lower, navigate to Settings > Security > Screen Lock > Encrypt phone. Tap "Encrypt phone" or "Encrypt tablet", as the case may be. Please note that you'll be asked to plug in your phone to charge while the encryption process is going on, just to ensure that it doesn't power off and cause errors. You'll now be prompted to set a PIN, password or lock screen which is needed to access your encrypted files. Overwrite with junk data If you want to be absolutely certain that your personal data cannot be accessed by anyone, you can overwrite your encrypted data with junk data, thereby making it impossible for anyone no matter how highly skilled to recover your old data. This is like trying to over-egg the pudding, but it gives you the full assurance that your personal data is irrecoverable. There are two ways you can do this. You can load your device with large files such as video clips until the storage is filled up, and then erase these files; or preferably, you can use a special app from the Play Store such as iShredder or Shreddit. These apps use shredding algorithm techniques to digitally shred data permanently. Once completed, you are good to go for the final step, which is the factory data reset. Remove your accounts, SIM and memory card As part of the final preparatory process, you want to make sure you remove all your accounts configured on your device before doing a factory reset. A Factory reset will not remove your accounts from that device. Depending on the exact model of the Android phone or tablet, the steps to remove your Google account may differ slightly. For most phones, go to Settings >> Accounts >> Gmail Account >> Remove Account, as shown in Figure 2.0 below. You may also want to go through each app and service you're signed into, and sign out. Remove any other email accounts setup on your device. The next step is to remove your SIM and memory card, so that they don't get erased or accidentally passed on to the next person. You can find the memory card either on the side of the phone or in the battery compartment. Make sure the phone is powered down and then remove the memory card. Perform factory reset Finally, you are ready to perform a factory reset. When you do a factory reset on your Android device, it erases all the data on your device, and returns the phone back to its original out-of-the-box state as it was from the factory. First off, let's start by removing the Factory Reset Protection (FRP). Google introduced FRP in Android 5.0 Lollipop as an extra layer of security to prevent anyone from being able to reset and sell your device if lost or stolen. When you factory reset a phone with FRP enabled and try to set it up as a new device, you'll be required to provide the login credentials for the last Google account that was configured on the device. If you fail to provide those credentials, the device will remain locked and you can't gain access. This is obviously not okay, especially if you're trying to sell it or give it away. Disabling FRP is easy. Before you begin, check if your phone has a "find my phone" app enabled, and manually disable it. On most phones, FRP will be automatically removed whenever you choose to factory reset your phone through its settings. This will automatically remove all the associated accounts, thereby freeing the phone from FRP. Once the FRP is removed, you can now proceed with factory reset. The easiest way to factory reset your device is through the settings menu. The location of the factory reset option might vary slightly depending on your manufacturer. On most phones, you can factory reset your phone through the Settings app. Go to Settings >> General Management >> Reset >> Factory Data Reset, as shown in Figure 3.0 below. You may check your manufacturer's support site for device-specific instructions. Otherwise, you can try factory resetting your phone using its power and volume buttons. You can confirm that FRP is disabled by attempting to sign back into the device after factory reset. If it asks for the previous username and password, it means FRP is still enabled. If it doesn't, you're good to go. You may now power it off and repackage it for the new owner. Wiping your Android phone: FAQs The data on most Android phones is encrypted which means that it can't be accessed following a factory reset. As such, you don't need to worry about another person accessing this information if you sell your Android phone. While data that's backed up on the cloud remains accessible, this requires signing in to an account (for example signing in to Google to access Google Drive documents). So as long as it's only you that holds the passwords, this backed up data is secure and inaccessible to others. See also: Best VPN for Android Best antivirus for Android

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