

# Tech tip: Get more life out of your dying phone battery

Kim Komando 23 hrs ago

When was the last time you left the house without your phone? Me neither.

© juststock, Getty Images/iStockphoto Apps are one of the biggest battery killers on your phone.

The moment your phone goes missing, panic sets in. [Tap or click for a method to find your phone, even if it's buried somewhere where you can't hear the ringer.](#)

When you're out and about and realize your battery life is low, what can you do? Keep reading for a few solid options.

## There's a mode for that

Both Apple and Android have a handy setting specifically for the times you're running out of juice, and it's relatively easy to turn on. These low-power modes temporarily disable the apps, features, and processes that drain the most battery.

You can turn it on manually, and it will automatically turn off when your phone is charged up again.

A word of warning: your phone won't be at its best in this mode. For starters, if your phone is on 5G, it reverts to 4G. Your phone won't check email or update news, weather, and other apps as frequently.

"Hey, Siri" and "OK, Google" doesn't work. Your notes, photos, and appointments also won't be synced to the cloud until you're at least 80% charged. Still, it is helpful in a pinch.

Apps are one of the biggest battery killers. [Tap or click here to find out which apps drain your phone's battery and storage the most.](#)

Enabling Low Power Mode on iPhone:

- Open **Settings** > **Battery**.
- Slide the toggle next to **Low Power Mode** to the right to enable it.

In iOS 9 and above, you'll receive notifications when your battery level hits 20% and 10%. You will get an option to enable **Low Power Mode** with a single tap.

Enabling Power saving mode on Android:

Android's version of this battery-saving mode is called Power saving mode, available on Android 5.0 OS and above.

For Samsung Galaxy:

- Open **Settings** > **Select Battery and device care**.
- Select **Power saving mode**.
- Slide the toggle next to **Power saving mode** to the right to enable it.

There are many Android manufacturers out there, all with their own steps and processes. Your model's steps could be different.

### **Other ways to extend battery life**

While these battery-saving modes will save the most juice, they disable some functions that you may want to use. Try these tips to save battery power if you don't want to jump straight to Low Power Mode.

**Lower the brightness:** The brighter the screen, the more battery you use. Dim the screen down to save a bit of juice.

To lower the brightness on an iPhone, open **Settings** and select **Display & Brightness**. Slide the toggle under Brightness to the left to lower it. If you want to make it brighter, slide the toggle to the right.

For Android, open **Settings** and select **Display**. Slide the toggle to the left to lower brightness or to the right to raise it.

**Curb notifications:** The constant dings, pings, and data fetching use a lot of battery. Turn off notifications for unnecessary apps to give yourself more time.

You can turn off notifications for a specific app on an iPhone right from your home screen or lock screen. Pull down the notification screen on your iPhone to see a list of recent ones.

Tap and hold a notification, then tap the **three dots** in the upper-right corner. You'll get a popup with a few options. Choose **Turn Off** to stop them.

You can follow the same steps on an Android phone. Swipe down on the notification panel to see a list of your notifications. Press and hold the one you want to turn off and tap **Turn off notifications**.

You can also long-press a notification as it happens, then tap the **settings cog** to go directly to notification settings.

**Turn off nonessential features:** Every extra feature you use, like Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, drains your battery. Turn them off if you aren't using them.

**Try Airplane mode:** This setting switches off your phone's cellular and wireless connections. When you need to save battery, turn it on and then off again to call or send a message.

**Control the temperature:** Keep your phone's temperature steady. If you're in the car and your phone is sitting on the passenger seat in a sunbeam, you'll notice how much faster your battery drains.

**Be prepared next time:** I always keep a portable battery in my bag. You can charge up a power bank at home and take it with you. [Anker's slim portable charger](#) is slim, affordable and just plain works.

**Bonus tip:** [Tech is expensive! Ways you're wasting money and smart fixes to save](#)

Look around your house. How much do you think you have spent on gadgets and tech subscriptions over the years?

Before you pull out your credit card again, read through this list of mistakes that might be costing you cash and easy fixes to spend less.

[Tap or click for my pro tips to keep your wallet happy.](#)

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