

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Leave, close or remove a phone app

Going Home, closing and uninstalling are different. Go Home for ordinary switching; close a stuck app; uninstall only after checking its important data.

iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ An unlocked phone
- ☐ A familiar app
- ☐ A backup of important app data before removal

1. Leave an app normally

Use your phone's Home button or swipe to return Home. This leaves the app available for later. You do not need to swipe away every app after each use; phones manage background activity themselves.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Open recent apps if it is stuck

iPhone with Home button: double-press Home. iPhone without it: swipe up from the bottom and pause. Android: use Recents or the corresponding swipe-and-pause gesture. Look for the card showing the unresponsive app.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Close only the affected app

Swipe the app's card away, usually upwards, then reopen it from its icon. Unsaved work may be lost. If it repeatedly freezes, update the app and check the publisher's help before deleting or clearing its stored data.

- ☐ Done this step

4. Check before uninstalling

Find whether files, notes or game progress are stored only in the app. Export or back up anything important. Check ongoing subscriptions separately; removing an app does not automatically stop a charge or delete its online account.

☐ Done this step

5. Remove it only if intended

iPhone: touch and hold the icon, choose Remove App, then Delete App if you mean to uninstall. Android: use App info and Uninstall, or the store's uninstall control. Remove from Home may only hide the shortcut.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Practise leaving and reopening Clock; do not uninstall it.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Can every built-in app be deleted?

No. Some can only be hidden or disabled, and available choices vary by device. Avoid disabling a system app you do not recognise.

Official help and the online guide

Apple: close an app - <https://support.apple.com/en-us/109359>

Google: remove apps - <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/2521768?hl=en>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/leave-close-remove-apps/>