

PRINTABLE GUIDE

Make space on your phone carefully

Phone storage and cloud storage have separate limits. Protect important files before deleting anything from either place.

iPhone or Android | 2 min read | 5 steps

Before you start

- ☐ An unlocked phone
- ☐ Verified copies of important photos and files
- ☐ Time to check each proposed deletion

1. Inspect device storage

iPhone: open Settings, General and iPhone Storage. Android: search Settings for Storage. Read the largest categories and app entries. Cloud storage screens show a separate limit; make sure you are examining the phone itself.

- ☐ Done this step

2. Remove replaceable downloads first

Open a streaming or podcast app and review downloaded items you no longer need offline. Remove the download using that app's control, after checking it can be obtained again. This is often clearer than deleting unfamiliar folders.

- ☐ Done this step

3. Review unused apps

Check important data before removing an app. iPhone may offer Offload App, which keeps its documents/data while removing software. Delete App or Android Uninstall can remove local app data. Removing an app does not necessarily cancel its subscription.

☐ Done this step

4. Handle photos with care

Verify backup completion and open a sample copy elsewhere first. Cloud photo deletion may also delete synced copies. Google Photos' Free up space on this device is different from deleting library items; read the confirmation carefully before proceeding.

☐ Done this step

5. Recheck the result

Return to device Storage and allow it to recalculate. Avoid Clear storage/data unless you understand what that app will lose. If space remains unexpectedly full, consult the manufacturer rather than installing a cleaner promising a guaranteed repair.

☐ Done this step

Try it for yourself

Read your largest storage category and identify one replaceable download without deleting precious files.

☐ I tried the task.

My notes

Can I empty the photo bin immediately?

That removes a recovery option and may be permanent. Wait until you have checked the correct files and independent copies.

Official help and the online guide

Apple: device storage - <https://support.apple.com/en-la/108429>

Google: Android storage - <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/7431795?hl=en>

Google: free device space - <https://support.google.com/photos/answer/6128843?hl=en>

Read online: <https://plaintech-guides.pages.dev/guides/recover-phone-storage-space/>