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IPHONE TIPS · NO. 02 | UPDATED FOR IOS 27

WhatsApp filling up your iPhone

How to clear the photos, videos and documents you receive that eat up storage

! Why does WhatsApp take up so much space?

Every photo, video, voice message, sticker or document you receive is **stored on your iPhone**, even after you have seen it. In busy groups this builds up every day. It is common for us to find iPhones with **10, 20 or 30 GB** of WhatsApp alone.

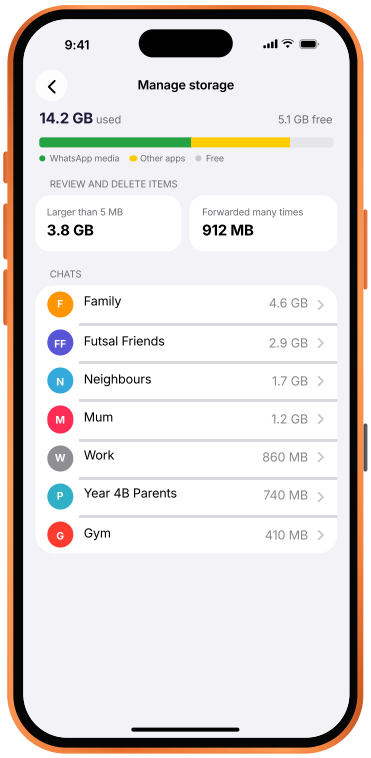
Worse still, if **Save to Camera Roll** is turned on, every image is stored **twice**: once in WhatsApp and again in Photos.

1 See how much space it uses, and where

WhatsApp › Settings › Storage and data › Manage storage

1. At the top you can see the space used by WhatsApp media and how much is left before the iPhone is full.
2. **Review and delete items** shows files over 5 MB (usually videos) and those **forwarded many times** (chain messages, viral videos, "good morning" images).
3. Below, your **chats are sorted by size**. Groups are almost always at the top.

> **Tip**
> Start with files **forwarded many times**: they are rarely important and free up space with no risk.

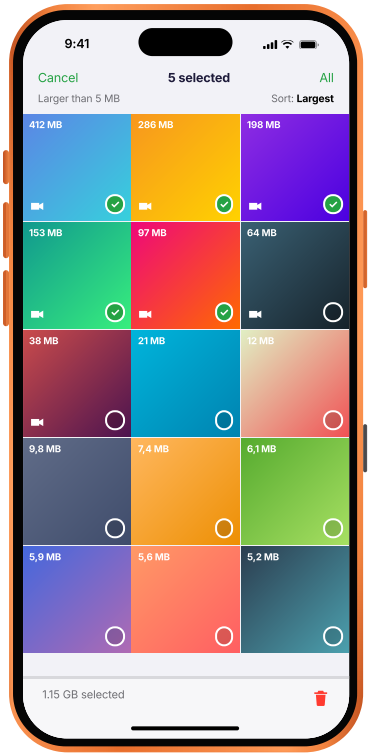


WhatsApp › Settings › Storage and data › Manage storage

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Files selected for deletion

2 How to delete

By size (the quickest way)

1. In **Manage storage**, tap **Larger than 5 MB**.
2. Use **Sort › Largest** to see the biggest files first.
3. Tap **Select**, choose the files and tap the **bin**.
4. Confirm with **Delete items**.

By chat

1. In **Manage storage**, tap the group or contact in the list.
2. Tap **Select**. To clear everything in that chat, use **Select all**.
3. Tap the bin and confirm. Text messages stay; only the media is removed.

3 Before you delete

- ✓ **Keep important documents.** Invoices, prescriptions, receipts or tickets: open the file and tap **Share › Save to Files**.
- ✓ **Back up your chats** before a big clean-up.

  Settings › Chats › Chat backup

  Tap **Back up now**.

- ✗ **Don't confuse this with "Clear chat"** or "Delete chat": they also delete the text messages.
- ✗ **Copies in Photos stay there.** If "Save to Camera Roll" was on, deleting in WhatsApp does not remove them from Photos. Check your library too.

Repeat the clean-up once a month

Five minutes in **Manage storage** is enough: delete files forwarded many times and group videos. That way your iPhone never reaches its limit.

4 Stop it filling up again

Media auto-download

Settings › Storage and data

In **Media auto-download**, set **Videos** and **Documents** to **Never**. You will see a preview and only download what you want.

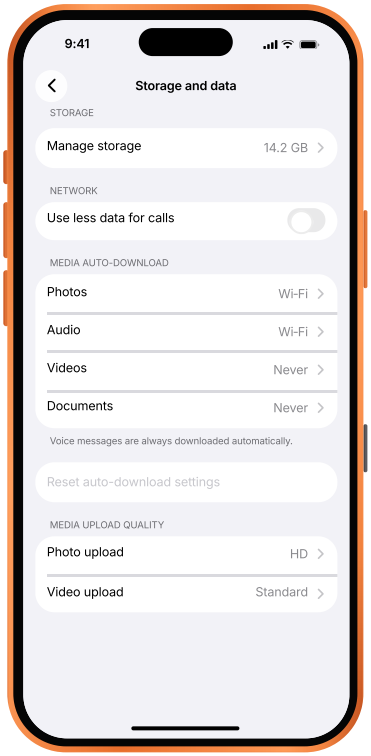
Don't duplicate in Photos

Settings › Chats › Save to Camera Roll

Turn this option off. When a photo matters, open it and tap **Save**. In groups you can also turn it off for that chat only: tap the group name › **Save to Camera Roll** › **Never**.

Disappearing messages in groups

In very busy groups, **disappearing messages** (24 hours, 7 or 90 days) delete themselves. Tap the group name › **Disappearing messages**.



WhatsApp › Settings › Storage and data

Monthly checklist

- Delete files **forwarded many times**.
- Review files **larger than 5 MB** and delete videos you have already watched.
- Clear the media from the **two or three groups** that use the most space.
- Check that your chat **backup** is up to date.
- Review the WhatsApp images saved in **Photos** that you don't need.
- Empty the **Recently Deleted** album in Photos.

Backups take up space too
The WhatsApp backup is stored in iCloud. If you include videos, it can become huge and fill your iCloud account. In most cases, leave **Include videos** turned off.

Still short of space?
See our **guide No. 01 – iPhone storage full**, with a complete clean-up of photos, messages and apps.

Not comfortable deleting things yourself? PAULO VASCONCELOS FREITAS – Tech Atelier, in Funchal or Horta: we help you choose what can go without losing anything important.