PAULO VASCONCELOS FREITAS
Tech Atelier

IPHONE TIPS · NO. 03 | UPDATED FOR IOS 27

How to force restart your iPhone

The “hard reset” for when the screen freezes and the iPhone stops responding

When to use it

When the screen **freezes**, doesn’t respond to touch, goes black while the iPhone still vibrates, or an app locks up the whole phone. A force restart cuts everything off and starts the system again.

NORMAL
Restart
Turning off and on again in the normal way. The first step for minor glitches.

THIS GUIDE
Force restart
A sequence of buttons, for when the iPhone doesn’t respond. **It does not erase data.**

CAREFUL
Reset
Erase All Content and Settings. **It erases everything** and is not the same as restarting.



A Recent models

iPhone 8 and later, including every model with Face ID (iPhone X to iPhone 17), iPhone 16e and iPhone SE (2nd and 3rd generation).

1. Press and **quickly release** the **volume up** button.
2. Press and **quickly release** the **volume down** button.
3. Press and **hold the side button**. Only let go when the **Apple logo** appears, after 10 to 20 seconds.

Steps 1 and 2 are quick
One press on each button, one after the other. If you wait more than a second between them, the iPhone ignores the sequence. Don’t press the **Action button** or **Camera Control**.

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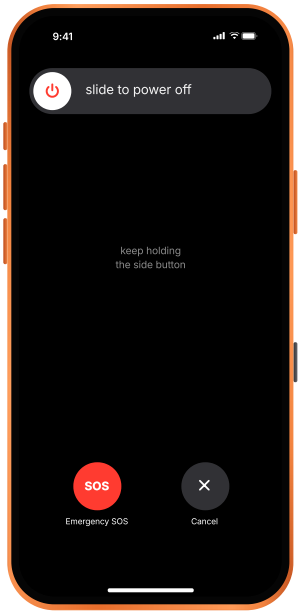
! Don’t let go at “slide to power off”

Halfway through step 3 the **slide to power off** screen appears, and this is where almost everyone lets go of the button. **Ignore it and keep holding the side button**: the screen goes dark and, a few seconds later, the Apple logo appears.

> **Careful with Emergency SOS**
> Don’t touch **SOS** on this screen. If you drag it, or press the side button 5 times in a row, the iPhone may call 112 (the European emergency number).

Restarting the normal way

If the iPhone still responds, press and hold the **side button** and either **volume button**, slide to power off, wait 30 seconds and turn it back on. Or go to **Settings › General › Shut Down**.



The screen that appears halfway through step 3



B iPhone 7 and 7 Plus

Press and hold the **volume down** button and the **side button at the same time**. Let go when the Apple logo appears.



C iPhone 6s and earlier

Press and hold the **Home button** and the **side button at the same time** (on the 1st-generation iPhone SE and older models, the top button). Let go when the Apple logo appears.

+ What if it doesn’t work?

- **Plug it in for an hour** and try again: with a completely flat battery, the screen may show nothing.
- **Stuck on the Apple logo?** It may be an interrupted update or lack of space: don’t keep trying.
- **Screen still black but the iPhone vibrates or rings?** The problem may be the screen, not the system.

In these cases, bring your iPhone to PAULO VASCONCELOS FREITAS – Tech Atelier. In Funchal or Horta, we diagnose the problem and, whenever possible, recover the iPhone without losing your data.