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IPHONE TIPS · NO. 05 | UPDATED FOR IOS 27

# Backups

The insurance that costs almost nothing, and that you only miss when it's too late



## Why does it matter so much?

An iPhone can be repaired or replaced; your **photos, chats, contacts and documents** cannot. The data on an iPhone is **encrypted and tied to its logic board**: without a backup, there is often no way to recover it.

### Common situations where everything is lost

ACCIDENT
**Fell into the sea**
Salt water on the board. The iPhone never turns on again and years of photos are trapped inside.

THEFT OR LOSS
**Left in a taxi**
The iPhone never comes back. Without a backup, everything that only existed on it is gone.

FAULT
**Stopped turning on**
A fault in the logic board or the memory can make the data unrecoverable.

PASSCODE
**iPhone disabled**
Too many attempts with the wrong passcode. The only solution is to erase the iPhone.

UPDATE
**Stuck on the Apple logo**
An interrupted update can force a full reset of the iPhone.

BROKEN SCREEN
**No touch**
The iPhone turns on, but you can't unlock it or get anything off it.

### No backup, no miracles

Nobody, not even Apple, can guarantee data recovery from an iPhone with no backup. Sometimes a board repair can be attempted just to retrieve the data, but it is expensive and **not guaranteed**. Making a backup takes five minutes.

**The simple rule**
Anything important must be **in at least two places**: on the iPhone and in iCloud, or on the iPhone and on a computer.

**Syncing is not archiving**
With Photos synced, deleting a photo on the iPhone also deletes it from iCloud. To keep it forever, copy it to a drive or computer.

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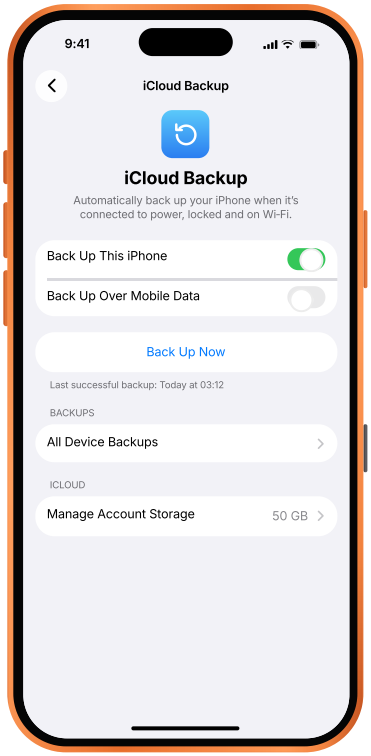
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## 1 Turn on iCloud Backup

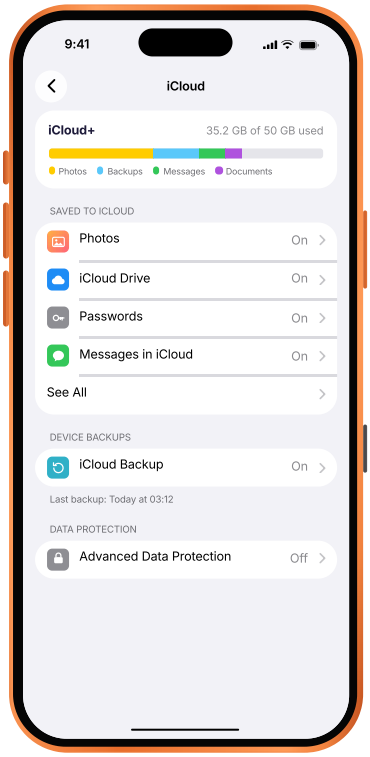
Settings › [your name] › iCloud › iCloud Backup

1. Turn on **Back Up This iPhone**.
2. From then on, the iPhone backs up **by itself** every night while it is **charging, locked and on Wi-Fi**.
3. Tap **Back Up Now** to make your first backup today.
4. Check the date of the **last backup** from time to time. If it is more than a week old, something is wrong.

> **What if iCloud is full?**
> When iCloud is full, backups **stop without you noticing**. The free account includes 5 GB, which is almost never enough. An **iCloud+** plan solves this: see the prices under *Manage Account Storage*.




Settings › [your name] › iCloud › iCloud Backup




Settings › [your name] › iCloud

## 2 Know what is saved

The iCloud screen shows what is protected. Your data is kept safe in two ways:

- **Synced:** Photos, Contacts, Calendars, Notes, Messages and Passwords are kept in iCloud in real time. If the iPhone disappears, they are still there.
- **In the backup:** settings, Home Screen layout, app data, WhatsApp chats (with their own backup) and everything else.

> **WhatsApp has its own backup**
> In WhatsApp: **Settings › Chats › Chat backup**. Turn on a daily or weekly **auto backup**.

**Do you have a backup? Check in 30 seconds:** open **Settings › [your name] › iCloud › iCloud Backup** and look at the date of the last backup. If there is none, or it is more than a week old, follow step 1 on the previous page.

## 3 A second backup, on your computer

If you have a lot of photos or don't want to pay for more iCloud, a computer backup is free and stays at home.

### On a Mac

1. Connect the iPhone with a cable and open the **Finder**.
2. Select the iPhone in the sidebar and confirm **Trust** on the iPhone.
3. Turn on **Encrypt local backup** and click **Back Up Now**.

### On Windows

1. Install the **Apple Devices** app from the Microsoft Store.
2. Connect the iPhone, open the app and confirm **Trust** on the iPhone.
3. Under **Backups**, turn on encryption and back up.

**Always encrypt**
Only an **encrypted** backup keeps your passwords, Health data and call history. Write the backup password down somewhere safe: without it, the backup cannot be used.

## Checklist

- **iCloud Backup** turned on, with a recent date.
- **Photos** synced with iCloud or copied to a computer.
- **WhatsApp** auto backup turned on.
- Enough free space in **iCloud**.
- **Find My iPhone** turned on, to locate or erase it remotely.
- Before any repair, a **backup made that same day**.

**Need help?** PAULO VASCONCELOS FREITAS – Tech Atelier, in Funchal and Horta: we help you set up your backups and check that they are working.