10 Tips to Improve iOS Battery Life

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1. Turn down screen brightness

Your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch will typically come set with the screen brightness at about 50%. To save battery life, simply reduce the brightness down to about 25%. The Brightness settings can be found in the Settings App under Brightness and Wallpaper. Be sure to leave the Auto-brightness On as this will keep your screen at an optimal brightness in varying conditions. When you manually adjust the brightness with Auto-brightness on, it will lower the the overall range of brightness, thereby saving valuable battery life.

2. Set Auto-Lock to 1 Minute

Setting the Auto-lock to 1 minute will make sure that when your iOS device is not being used, it will lock itself and turn off the screen. This helps to save battery life by keeping the screen on as little as possible. You can find this setting under Settings --> General --> Auto-Lock.

3. Increase the Fetch interval for Mail, Contacts, Calendars

When you have email, calendar, and contact accounts enabled on your device, you can set the interval for the amount of time that elapses between when your email is checked automatically and when new calendar events are synced to your phone. Certain accounts, like you iCloud accounts support something called "Push" meaning that data is automatically sent immediately without the need to fetch it. However, other accounts still depend on "Fetching" of data. I recommend changing your Fetch schedule to "Hourly" or "Manually". You can find this setting in the Settings App --> Mail, Contacts, Calendars --> Fetch New Data. If you turn the setting to "Manually" your accounts will only retrieve new email and sync calendars when you open the respective App (Mail, Calendar, etc). This prevents the phone from downloading large amounts of data when you are not on Wifi which dramatically saves battery life.

4. Turn off Bluetooth

Bluetooth is another feature that uses battery life. If you want to improve your battery life, simply turn bluetooth off and only enable it when you are using it. To turn it off, go to Settings --> Bluetooth.

5. Turn off Wifi

Another drain on the battery is Wifi. Your device is set to automatically search for new Wifi networks to connect to. This is a very convenient feature when you are actively trying to connect to Wifi. However, if you are driving or walking somewhere, and the Wifi signal is on, your iOS device will continue to search for Wifi Networks to connect to even when you don't need them. This drains the battery. To turn off Wifi, go to Settings --> Wifi.

6. Turn off Location Services

Location Services uses GPS (if your device has GPS) along with Wifi and cell tower locations (for cellular devices) to determine approximate locations. This is used to in the Maps app to determine your current location as well as numerous other applications. The process of determining your location uses battery life. Turning off this feature will save battery life. However, it will also limit the functionality of certain apps. There are 2 ways to approach this. First, you can turn it off completely. This will obviously be the best case scenario for battery life. Alternatively, you can just disable it for certain apps. To turn it off entirely or disable it for certain devices, go to Settings --> Privacy --> Location Services. The master switch is at the top and the On/Off toggle for individual applications can be found below the master switch.

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7. Turn off Vibration

If you receive a lot of calls and text messages, the vibrator might be one of the culprits for battery draining. Turning off Vibration will help improve battery life as well. To turn of Vibrating Alerts go to Settings --> Sounds --> Vibrate on Ring and Vibrate on Silent. You have the option to turn one or both of these off.

8. Close all apps from Multitasking Tray once per week

Another drain on the battery can be apps that continue to use resources even when closed. Certain apps are designed to function minimally in the background which uses battery life. In addition, sometimes apps can have bugs or glitches in them that continue to use a lot of resources in the background even though they aren't designed to do that. To make sure that you avoid the possibility of excessive battery drain when apps are working in the background, simply activate the multitasking tray by tapping the Home Button twice when on the Home Screen. Then, tap and hold on one of the apps that appear along the bottom of the screen until it begins to shake and you see an little red minus in the upper corner of all the apps in the multitasking tray. Tap each red minus to close out of an app completely. This can be done once per week to improve battery life or even more often if battery life is a significant issue for you.

9. Perform a Hard Reset every couple weeks

All computers and smartphones benefit from being restarted every so often. And I don't mean simply locking the screen and unlocking it. There are 2 ways to restart your iOS device. The first is the typical shutdown and startup. To turn off the device completely, push and hold the On/Off button on the top right corner of your iOS device. Hold it until you see "slide to power off" appear. Then, slide to power off. Wait a couple of seconds and then push the On/Off button again to start your iOS device back up. The second way to restart the device is a Hard Reset. This is where you push and hold the On/Off Button and the Home Button for about 15-20 seconds. The device screen will turn off and the Apple logo will appear. Continue to hold the Home Button and the On/Off button until the Apple logo disappears and the screen turns off again. Wait a couple of seconds and then turn the device back on by pushing the On/Off button on the top right of your device.

10. Backup, Reset, and Restore your device

If you are doing the above 9 steps and your device continues to have issues with battery life, you can perform a restore. Be sure to backup your device (How to Backup iOS Device). Once you have backed up the device to iCloud or iTunes, then do a Restore. Connect your device to iTunes and click on the Restore button in iTunes to reset and completely restore your device to factory settings (How to Restore iOS Device). Once the Restore is complete, you can restore your content and settings as you set up the device.

Other Options: Battery Case and Battery Backup

2 other options to consider if you are having a lot of trouble with battery life due to usage are a Battery Case (iPhone) or a Battery Backup (iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch). There are a lot of great options out there. I'll just mention a couple here.

Battery Case: If you have an iPhone 5, the only option at this point for additional power is a Battery Backup because no battery cases have been released yet for the iPhone 5. If you have an iPhone 4/4S, two battery cases that have great reviews are the Mophie Juice Pack Plus Case and the New Trent Power Rock Case (click on either one to go to product page on Amazon*). These cases add a little thickness and weight to the iPhone but they both give a tremendous boost to the battery (the New Trent Power Rock Case claims an 11 hour battery life watching videos).

Battery Backup: There are numerous options out there for battery backups. New Trent has a couple of different sizes of battery backup units. Their best battery backup can give an iPad a full charge and will give 4-6 charges to an iPhone. It is called the New Trent IMP120D iCarrier (click on the link to go to product page on Amazon*). The cool thing about this unit is that it is compact but it boasts 2 USB ports so that you can charge an iPhone or iPad and one other device at the same time.

The Amazon links are affiliate links meaning that any purchases made through the link will give a small commission back to the author to continue to provide more content.