

How to Breathe New Life into Your Old iPhone After Updating to New iOS

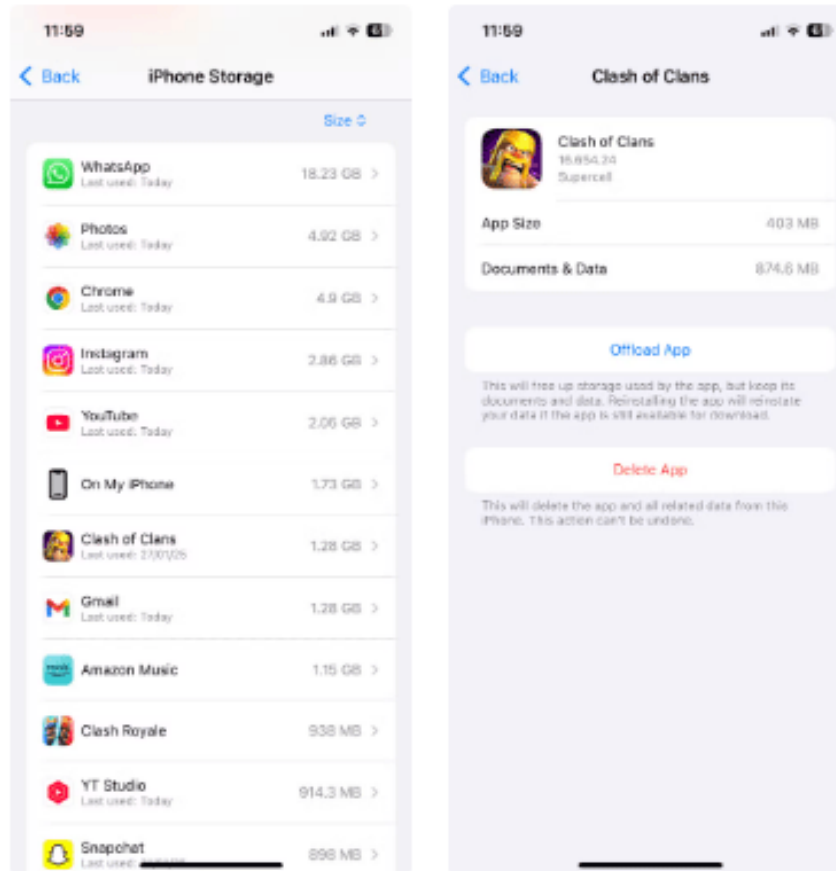
Of course, you could run out and upgrade to the latest iPhone. But why do that when you can breathe new life into your old iPhone by taking advantage of a few simple tips?

Every new iOS update can make your iPhone feel a little slow. Sure, you could run out and upgrade to the latest iPhone. But why do that when you can breathe new life into your old iPhone with a few simple tricks?

1. Delete unused apps and widgets

One of the best things you can do to breathe new life into your old iPhone is to clean it up — starting with the apps you don't use. Like most people, you sometimes download apps for one-time needs or out of curiosity, then forget about them. These apps take up storage space, run background processes, and slow down overall performance.

To clean things up, regularly review your installed apps and delete the ones you no longer need. To do this, go to **Settings > General > iPhone Storage** and go through each app one by one.



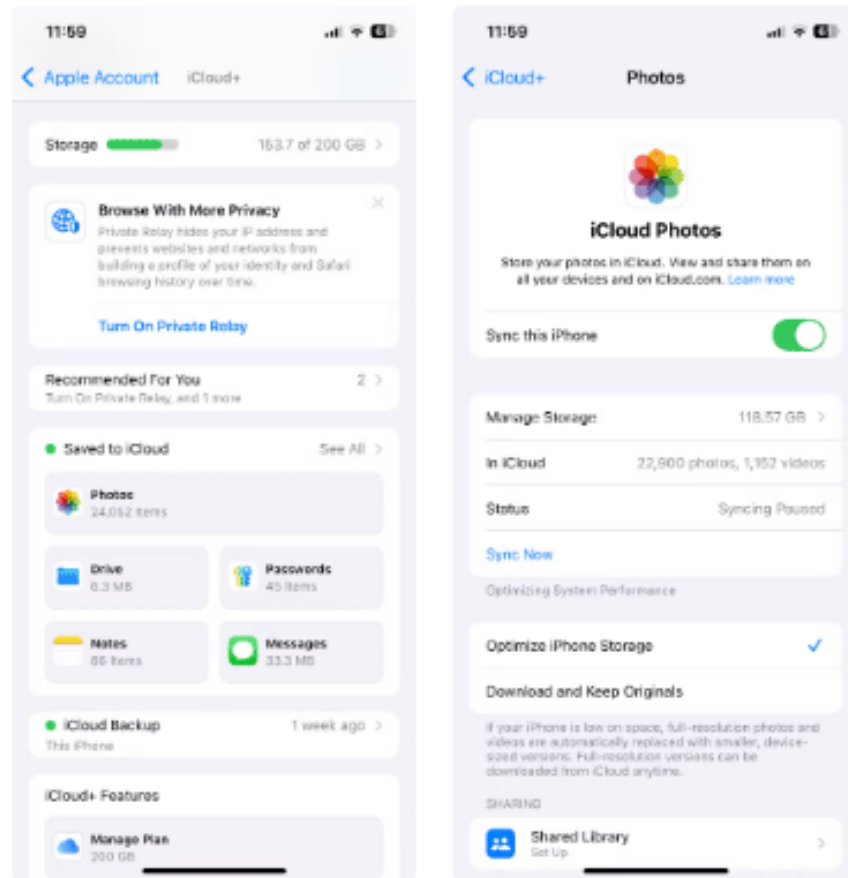
Sure, it's a time-consuming process, but it helps clean up your digital life and get your phone performance back on track.

Additionally, while widgets provide quick access to information, having too many can drain your battery and slow down your phone. It's best to delete unnecessary widgets and organize the ones that remain. This not only keeps your iPhone home screen clutter-free, but also reduces unnecessary strain on your phone's resources.

2. Free up storage space by moving data to iCloud

Having enough free storage space is crucial for any smartphone to run smoothly. If your iPhone only has 128GB of internal storage, upgrade to iCloud+ and choose the 200GB storage plan. This will give you enough space to transfer data without worrying about running out of space.

With ample iCloud storage, you can upload all your photos and videos to iCloud, allowing you to delete them from your device without actually losing them. To make this process seamless, turn on Optimize iPhone Storage. This feature allows your iPhone to save smaller versions of your photos, saving space on your device, while keeping full-resolution files safe in iCloud.

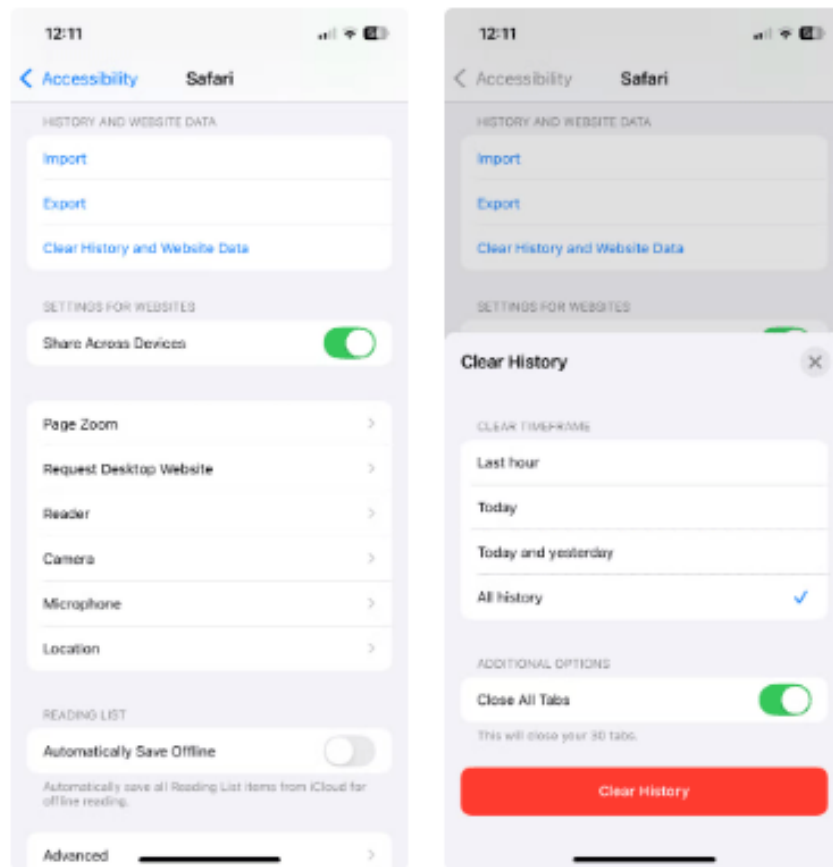


3. Clear Safari data

People spend a lot of time surfing the internet on their iPhones, and over time, browsers like Safari can become sluggish as cached files, cookies, and browsing history build up. With so many websites asking us to accept cookies these days, this data can quickly build up.

When this happens, Safari takes longer to load and becomes less responsive. Clearing Safari's browsing history and data can help fix this problem.

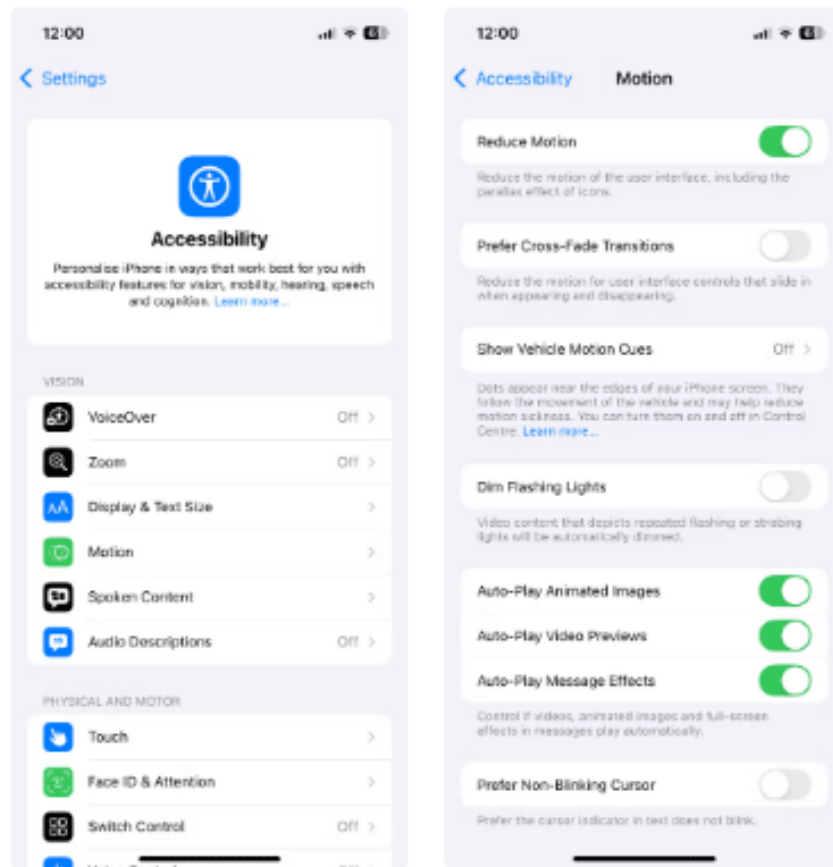
All you need to do is go to **Settings > Safari > Clear History and Website Data** to clear your browser data. This will not only speed up Safari but also free up some storage space on your iPhone.



4. Turn on Reduce Motion and Reduce Transparency

Even with all the optimizations, the fact that the iPhone 12 is over 3 years old and doesn't have the fastest processor remains. To reduce the load on your phone's processor and ensure it runs smoothly with the latest version of iOS, turn off animations and visual effects.

You can do this by going to **Settings > Accessibility > Motion** and turning on **Reduce Motion**. This cuts out fancy animations like parallax effects on the home screen and app transitions, making the iPhone feel faster. Instead of smooth zooming and sliding, apps just fade in and out, which doesn't look as cool but definitely speeds things up.

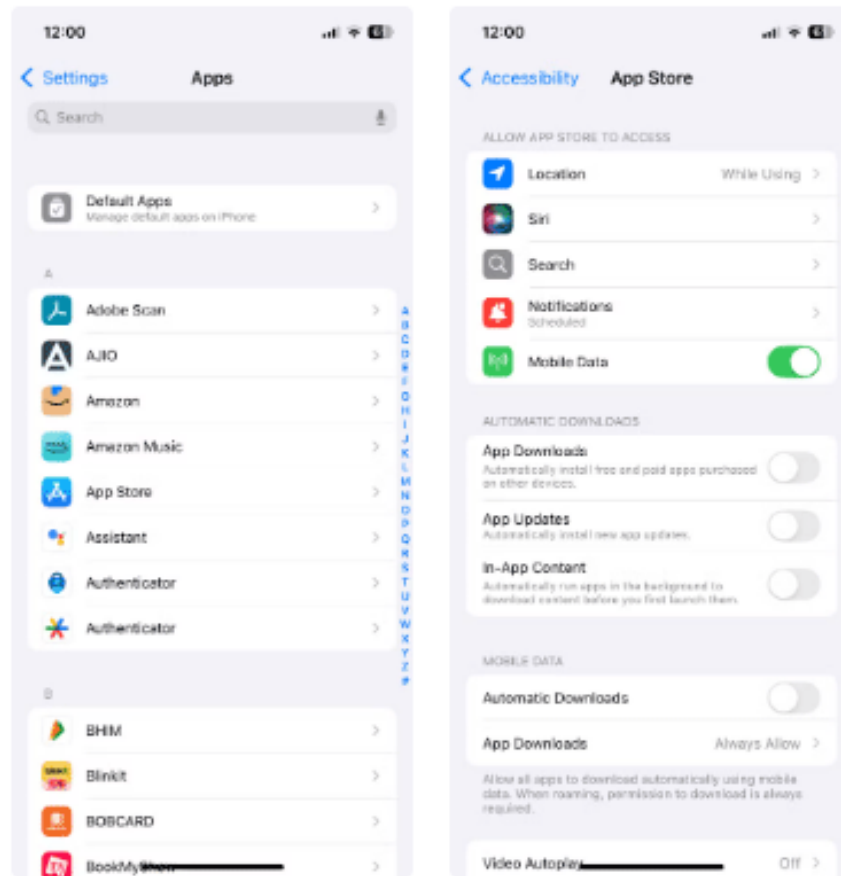


Similarly, turn on **Reduce Transparency** by going to **Settings > Accessibility > Display & Text Size** . This will reduce the transparency effect in places like Control Center and menus, making things easier to read and putting less strain on your iPhone's processor.

The differences are subtle but noticeable – menus look more solid and the interface is generally more responsive.

5. Turn off automatic app downloads

While updating apps in the background is convenient, it can also drain your battery and increase the amount of background activity—which is unacceptable on an older device. So turn off automatic downloads by going to **Settings > Apps > App Store** and turning off the toggles under **Automatic Downloads** .



6. Turn off background app refresh for unnecessary apps

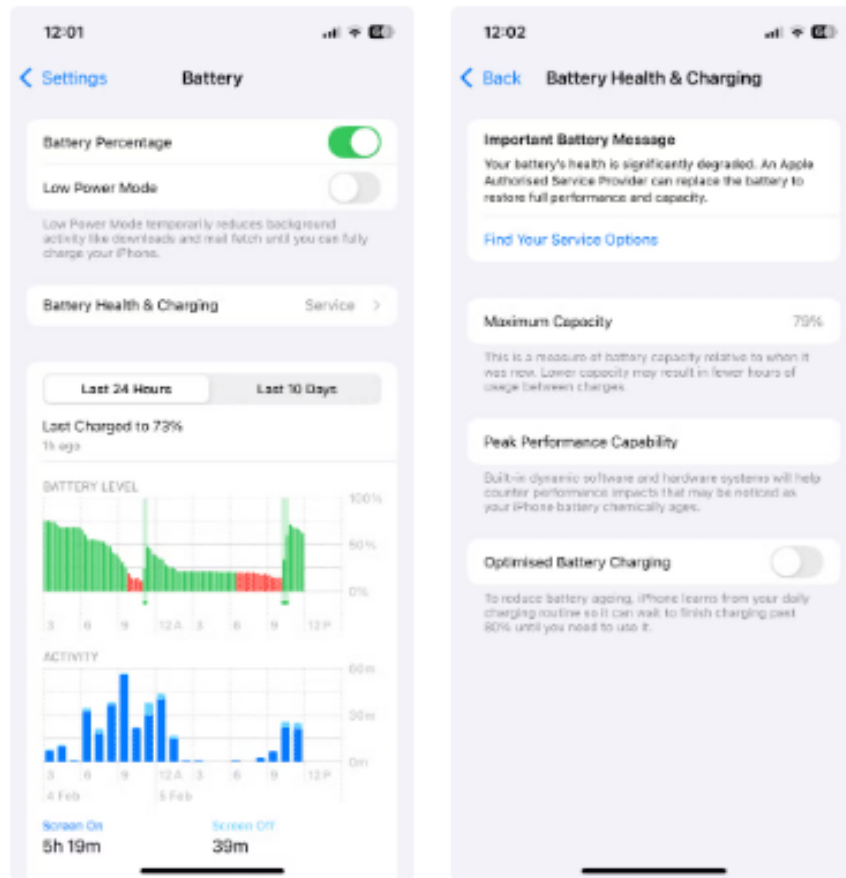
In addition to app downloads, turn off Background App Refresh for apps that don't need it. While this feature allows apps to fetch new data in the background and display timely notifications, it can also be resource-hungry. Not all apps need this feature turned on, especially games.

So turn off Background App Refresh for apps you don't need by going to **Settings > General > Background App Refresh**. This frees up system resources and helps your iPhone run smoother despite its age. If you notice an app isn't updating when you open it, you can always turn it back on — but in most cases, you shouldn't need to.



7. Replace the battery

Over time, smartphone batteries wear out, and when that happens, their performance declines. After using your iPhone for three years, you may find that your battery barely lasts all day. Apple's Battery Health tool can help you confirm whether it's time to replace your battery.



If you plan on keeping your iPhone for a few more years, replacing the battery is worth the expense — and the difference will be noticeable immediately. Your iPhone will stop randomly shutting down, and you'll be able to get through the day without having to fumble for a charger.

8. Turn off power saving mode

While Low Power Mode is great for extending your iPhone's battery life, it can slow things down significantly. You can rely on it every day to keep your battery going from morning to evening, but it comes at the cost of performance.

With the new battery, you no longer have to keep Low Power Mode on all the time. As a result, apps can run freely in the background, scrolling is smoother, and the phone is generally faster.

This mode serves as a reminder that saving power is great in an emergency, but having it on all the time will slow down your phone.



It's easy to assume that your iPhone will break down after a few years of updates, but with the right adjustments, it can still perform surprisingly well. With a new battery, some memory cleanup, and a few smart tweaks, your iPhone will now be faster, more reliable, and ready to last for years to come.

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