iPhone security and privacy

Secure your iPhone with a passcode and your own fingerprint.

A passcode or fingerprint can secure your iPhone to keep all your personal data safe. You can think of the passcode as a key to unlock your iPhone. When your iPhone is locked, no one else can use it.

If you already have a passcode set up on your iPhone, you can follow along with this guide to learn how to change your passcode.

What you will need

Before you begin the course, check that your phone is fully charged and showing the **Home** screen. Your operating system software should also be fully up to date.

To check your system software is up to date, select **Settings**, then **General**, then **Software Update**. Your phone will then check for any updates required, and you can select to download and install if necessary. The option **Automatic Updates** should be set to on so that your phone can keep itself up to date.

We recommend you only use your home Wi-Fi to do these updates to save your data and to protect your privacy.

First steps

Your iPhone security options are controlled from the **Settings** app. To open it:

1. Find the **Settings** app icon on the **Home** screen and tap it.

2. Once the Settings app is open, scroll down until you see **Touch ID & passcode** and tap it. It might be called **Face ID & passcode**, depending on your iPhone model.

If you already have a passcode on your phone, the next few steps are similar to those for changing it, so it's a good idea to follow along.
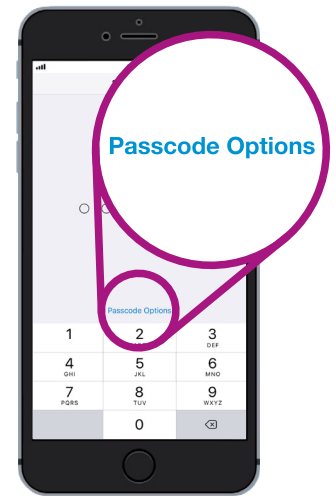
Turning on and choosing a passcode

To use a passcode, you need to tell your phone to activate the passcode security feature, and then you need to type in a new passcode for the first time.

1. From the **Face ID & passcode** menu, tap **Turn passcode on**.

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2. A passcode can be more than just numbers! You can get some more information about what makes a good passcode by tapping **Passcode options**. For this course, we're going to use a six-digit code of just numbers.

3. Using the number pad, tap in a six-digit passcode. If you make the passcode too easy (for example, 123456) your iPhone might warn you about it! If this happens, tap **Change passcode** and try again!

4. Your iPhone wants to be sure you remember your passcode, so enter the passcode again.

Your iPhone and personal information are now protected by your new passcode!

Find out what makes a great and safe passcode by tapping here

Changing the lock delay

If you don't use your iPhone for a period of time, it will lock automatically. To keep using it, you'll need to enter your passcode. This keeps your data safe, but it's not always convenient! You can choose how long your phone remains unlocked after you stop using it.
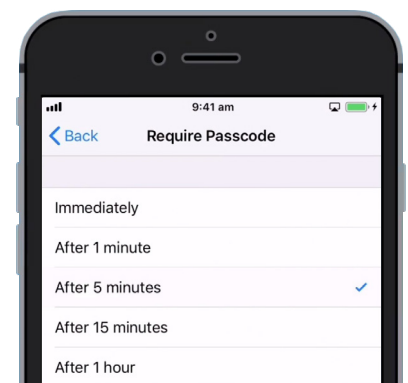
When you set up your new passcode successfully, your iPhone returned to the **Touch ID & Passcode** screen, so let's continue from there:

1. **Scroll down** the screen until you can see **Require passcode** and tap on it.

2. A short delay time offers good security and convenience. Tap **After 5 minutes** to make your iPhone wait five minutes to lock.

3. Tap the **Back** arrow at the top left of the screen to go back to the **Touch ID & passcode** screen.

How to change your passcode

If you're worried that someone has found out your passcode, it's easy to change.

1. Tap **Change passcode**.

2. Follow the steps to set a new six-digit number.

A five minute delay offers a good balance between security and convenience

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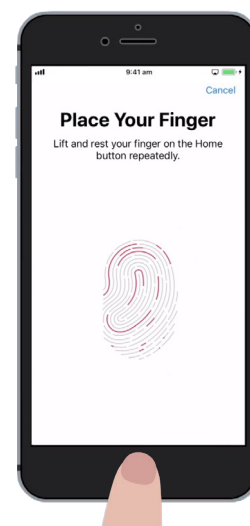
Testing your new passcode

Now let's test your new passcode to make sure it works.

1. Press the **Power** button on the side of your iPhone so the screen goes dark. This locks your iPhone. Don't hold the button for too long, or your phone may switch off completely.

2. Press the **Home** button once to wake up your iPhone. The **Lock** screen will appear, and ask you to **Press home to unlock**.

3. Press the **Home** button again, and a number pad will appear.

4. Carefully enter each number of your passcode using the number pad. If you enter the passcode incorrectly, the passcode will shake and you'll need to try again.

5. After you enter your passcode correctly, the **Home** screen will appear, and you can use your iPhone.

Setting up Touch ID

The **Touch ID** feature on your iPhone allows you to unlock it using your fingerprint. Touch ID can be a faster and more convenient way to unlock your iPhone than a passcode. However, you will still need a passcode to keep your information secure. Your passcode can always unlock your iPhone, even when Touch ID security is set up.

1. To set up **Touch ID**, find and open the **Settings** app like you did earlier in this guide.

2. From the **Settings** menu, find the **Touch ID & passcode** option and tap it.

3. You need to enter your passcode to prove it's you!

4. When the **Touch ID & Passcode** screen appears, tap **Add a fingerprint.**

5. The **Touch ID** screen appears. Follow the on-screen instructions by placing your finger on the **Home** button to scan your fingerprint.

6. You need to press and then lift your finger on the **Home** button a few times.

Press and lift your finger on the Home button a few times. The scan is finished when the fingerprint on the screen turns red completely

7. When the screen says **Adjust your grip,** tap **Continue**. Then start pressing the **Home** button off-centre to capture the edges of your fingerprint.

8. When the screen says **Complete**, tap **Continue** to finish and return to the **Touch ID & passcode** screen.

Extra Touch ID features

Now your fingerprint is registered with **Touch ID**, you can use it for a range of things.

You can use your Touch ID:

1. To unlock your phone.

2. To buy things from **iTunes** and the **App Store**.

3. To buy things at the counter in some shops using **Apple Pay**.

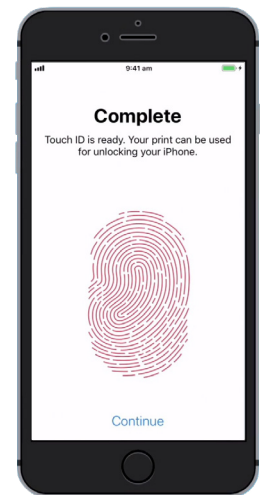**4.** To **autofill passwords** for some apps and websites.

To change any of these settings, tap the green switch next to the setting to turn it off.

Testing Touch ID

Now let's test your **Touch ID** to make sure it works.

1. Press the **Power** button on the side to lock your iPhone.

2. Now press the **Home** button to show the **Lock** screen, and press it again to show the passcode number pad.

3. You can unlock with your passcode here, but this time press the **Home** button again to use **Touch ID**.

4. Your iPhone will scan your fingerprint, and in a second or two, it will unlock and show the **Home** screen.

Congratulations! You should now know how to protect the personal data and information on your iPhone using a passcode, and Touch ID.

When you see this screen, your fingerprint is registered with Touch ID

The green switches show which Touch ID features are turned on