iGEEKSBLOG

Are your iPhone or iPad backups taking up much storage space on your Mac? Finder stores your iTunes backups in a default location on your Mac. However, you may move those files to an external hard drive and back up your iPhone to a different location. In this blog, I will show you how to change iPhone backup location on Mac.
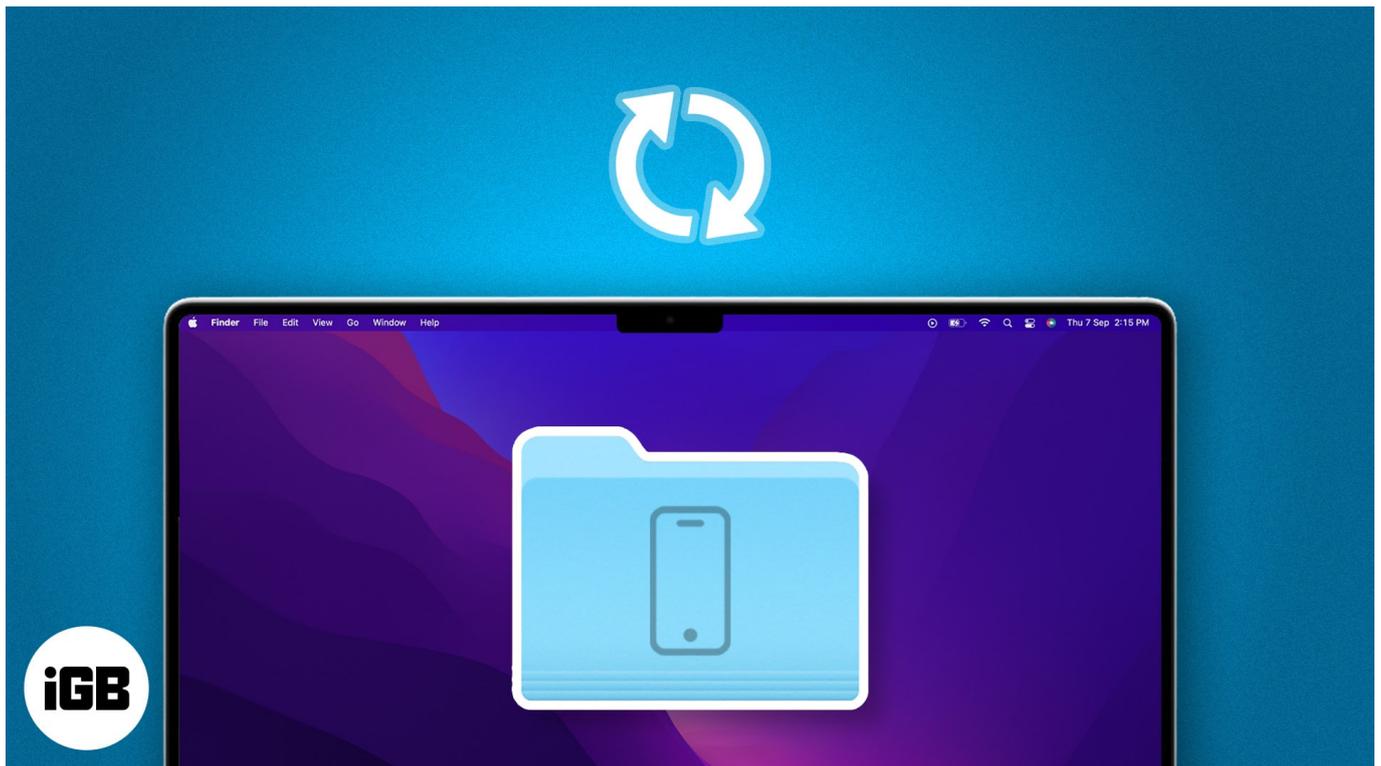
Table of Contents

How to change iPhone backup location on Mac

You may wonder where is your iPhone backup stored on your Mac. All the backup files are hidden in a system folder named MobileSync. Besides, I strongly advise syncing the backup files to iCloud before you move its location. So, if anything goes wrong, you can still access the old backup.

1. Launch **Finder**.

2. Click **Go** in the menu bar → Select **Go to Folder**.
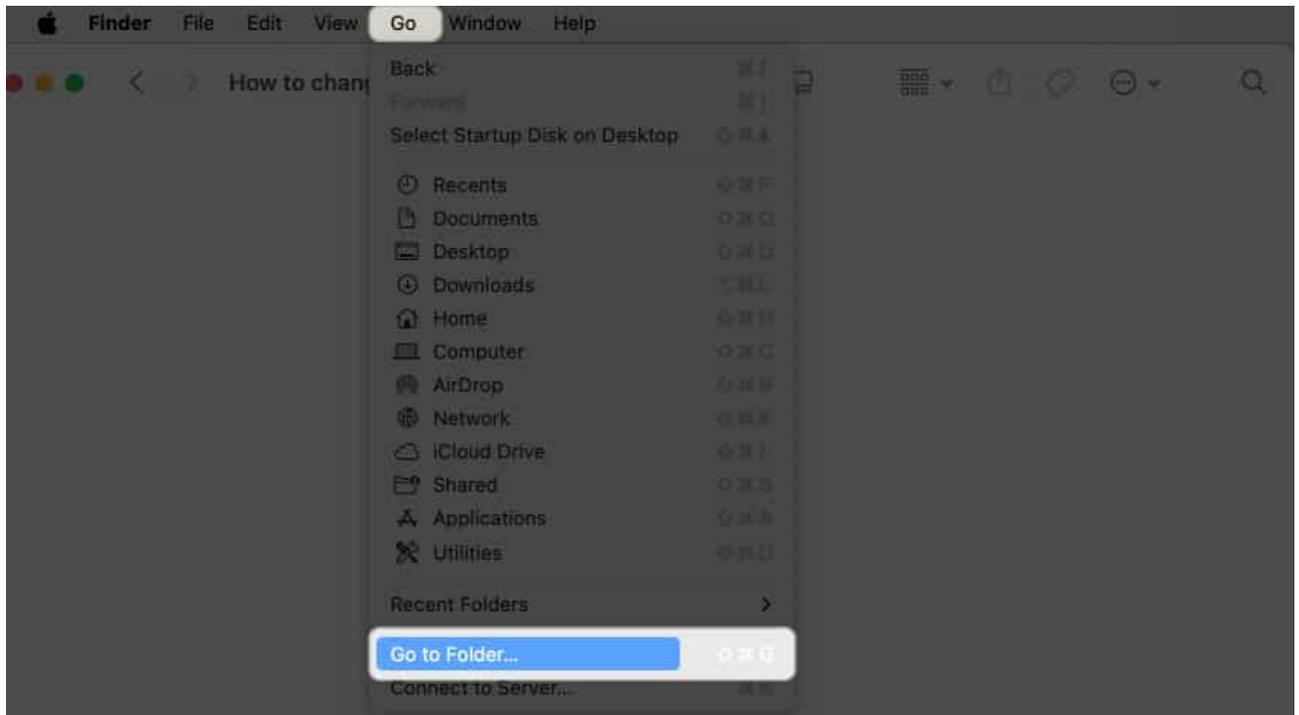
3. Type **~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync** → Hit **return**.
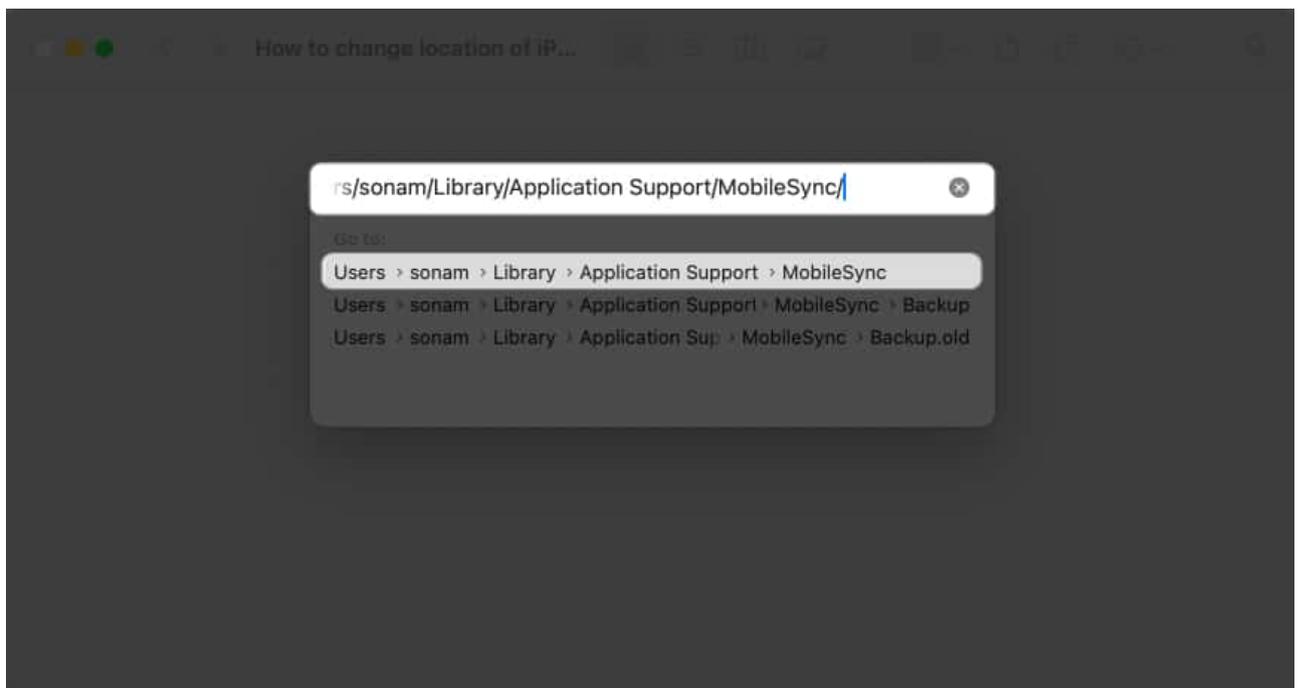
4. Select the **Backup folder** → **Right-click** on it and choose **Copy**.
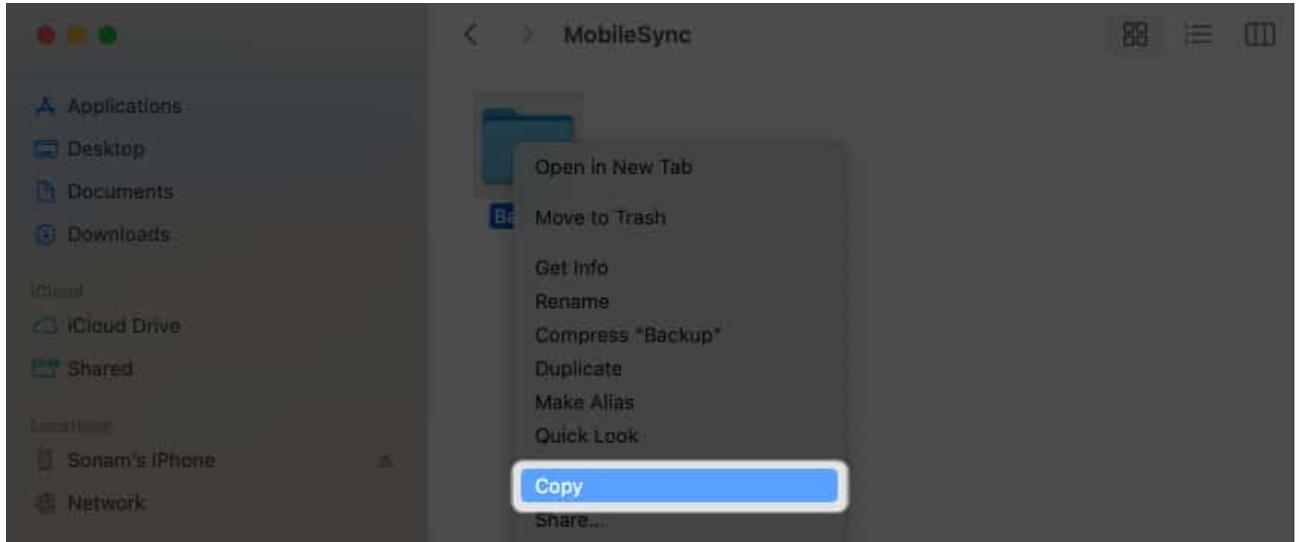
5. Open another **Finder window** → Head to the **location** where you want to move the backup location.
6. **Right-click** on the window → Choose **Paste Item**.
Wait for it to finish and keep the window open.
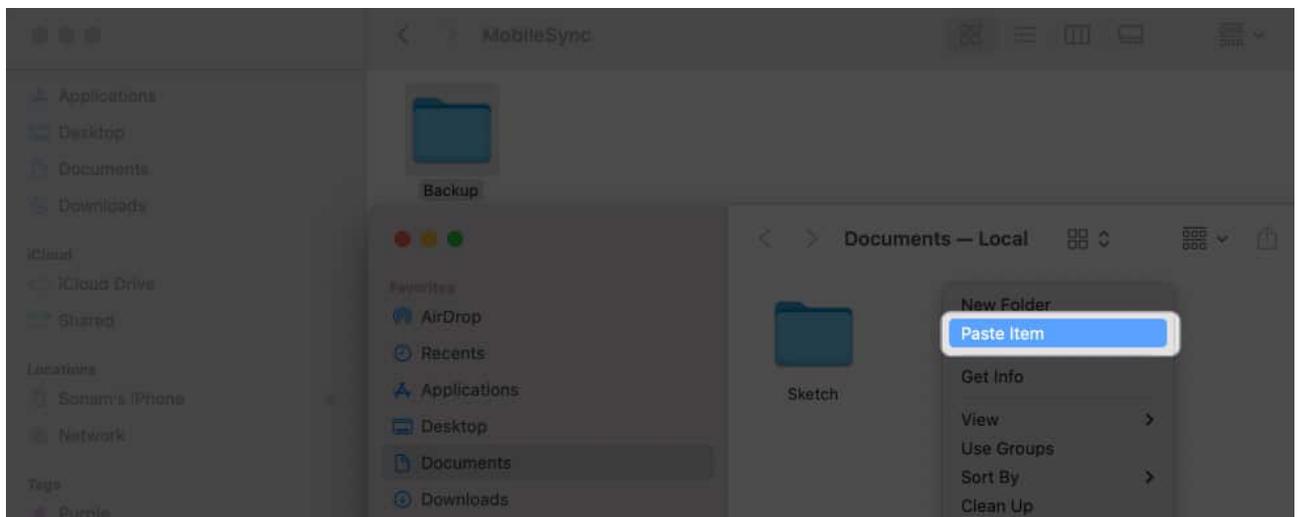
7. Now, go back to the **original Backup folder's Finder window**.
8. **Right-click** on the folder → Select **Rename**.
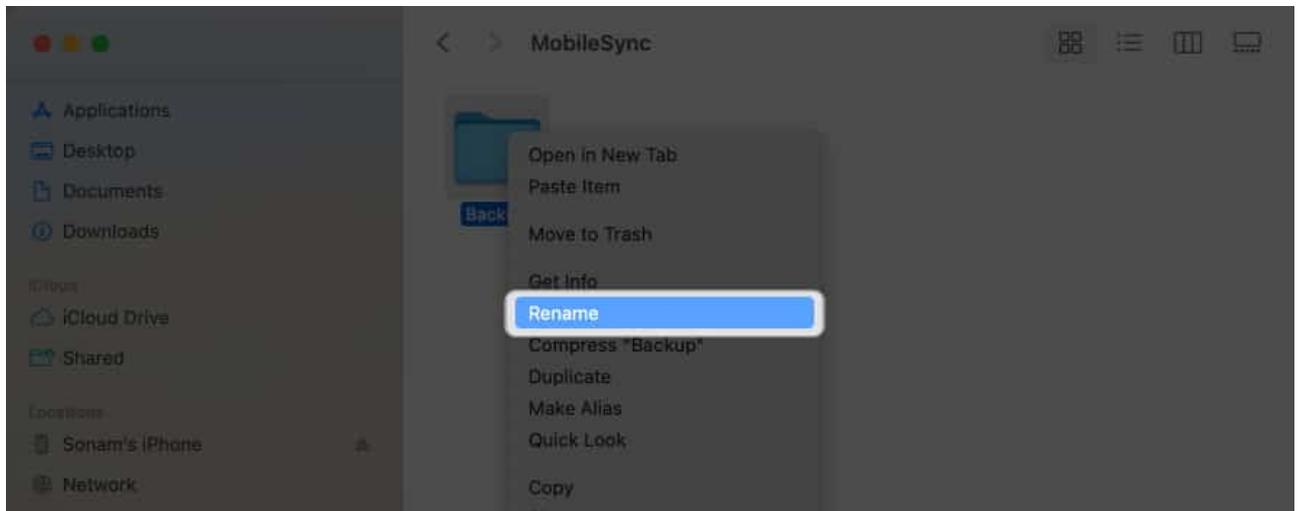
9. Type the **new name** → Hit **return**.
*I have put **".old"** at the end of the name, like **Backup.old**.*
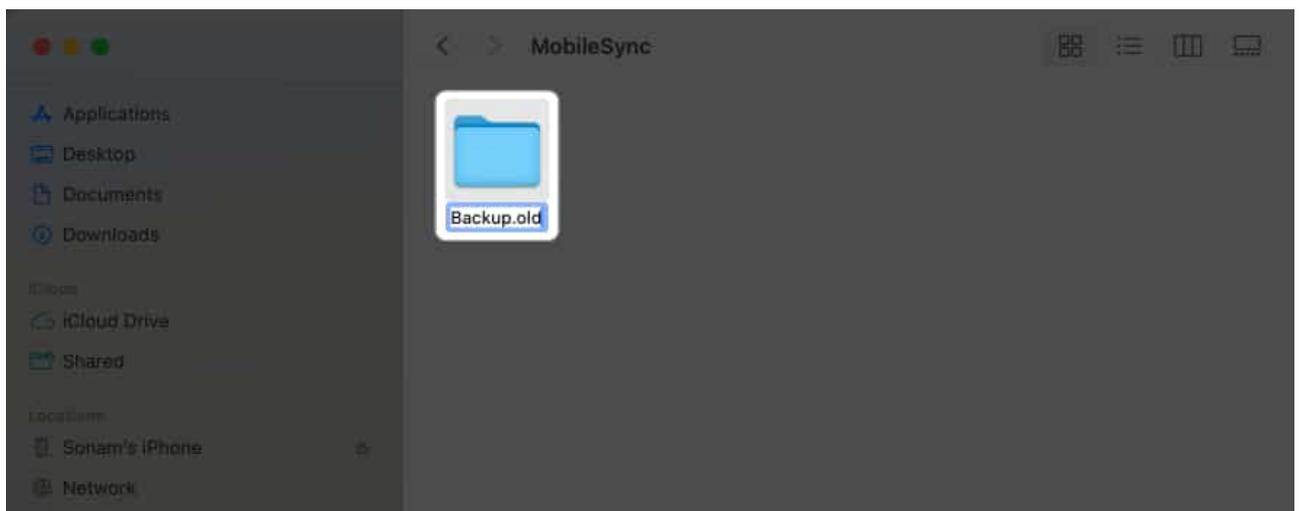
10. Click the **Apple logo ()** → Choose **System Settings**.
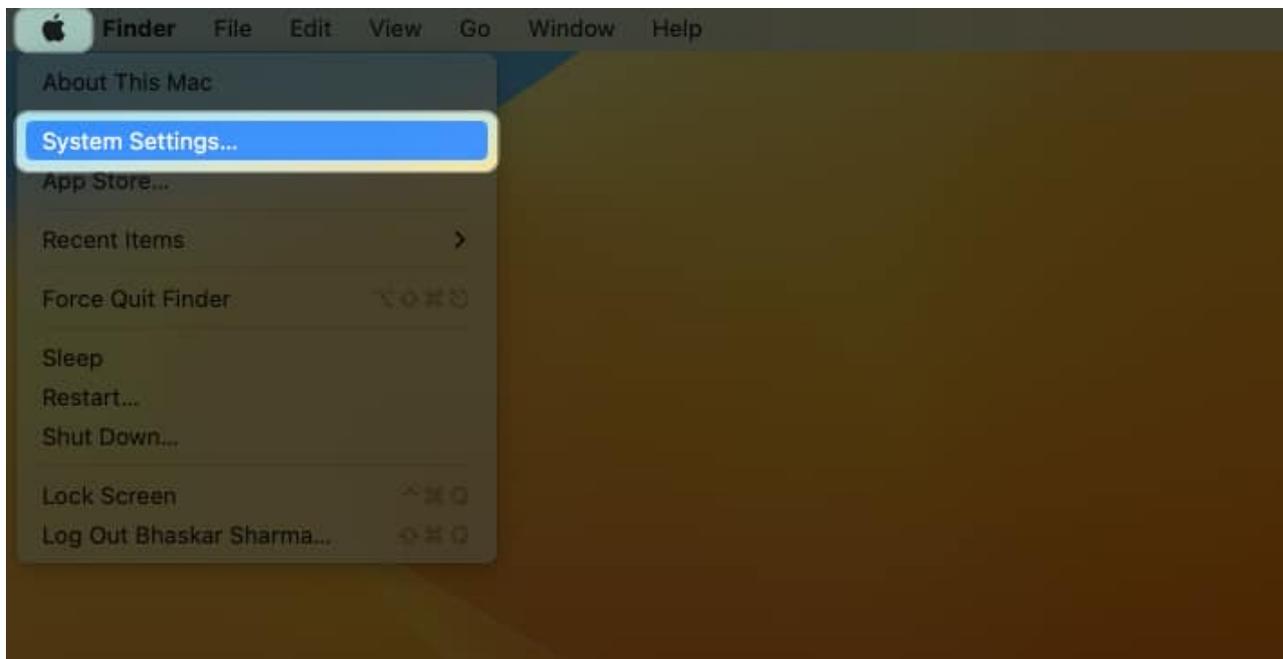
11. Head to **Privacy & Security** → Select **Full Disk Access**.
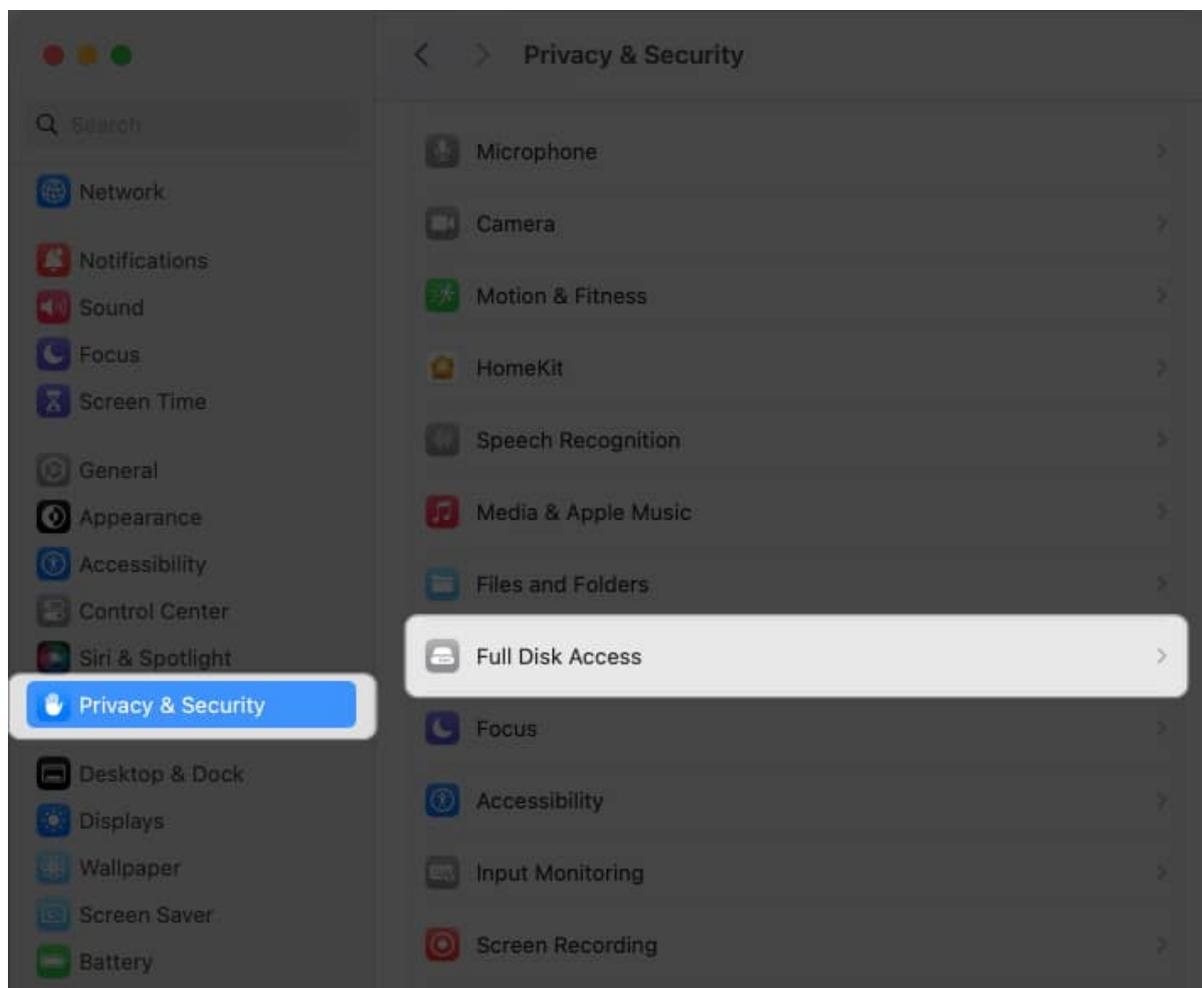
12. Click the **plus icon (+)** → Enter your **Mac's Password**.
    You can also scan your finger using [Touch ID](#) if it is set up.
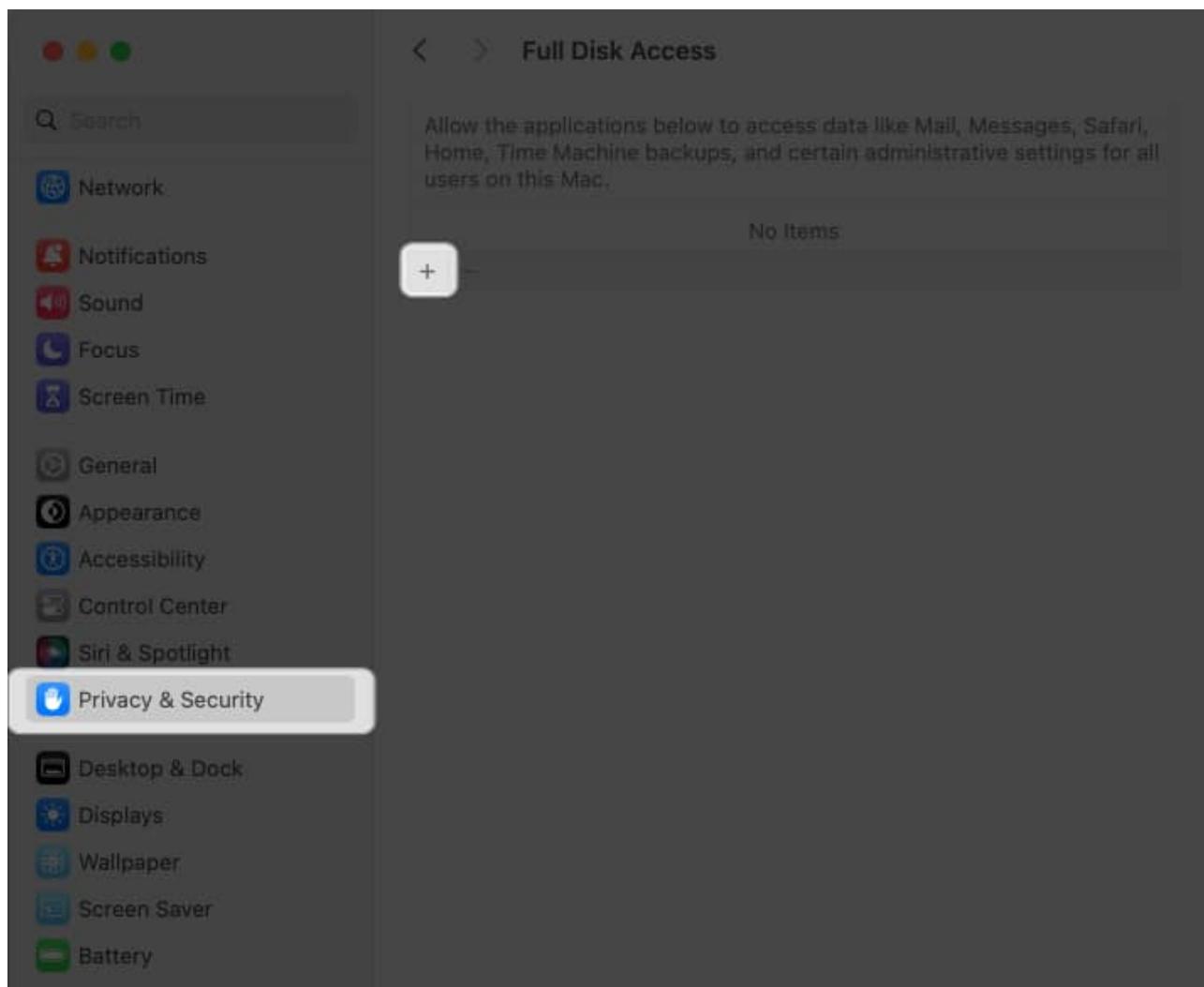
13. Go to **Applications** → Select **Terminal** → Click **Open**.
    You may find it using the Search icon.
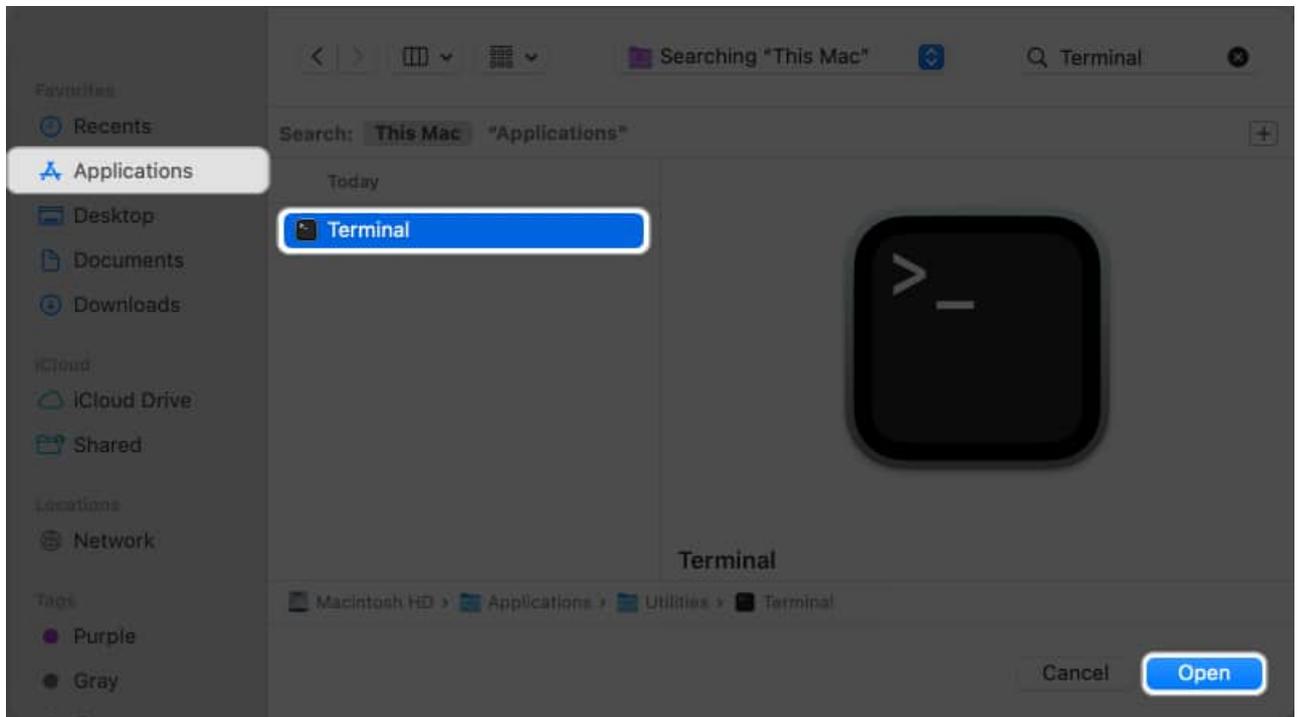
14. Toggle on **Terminal**.
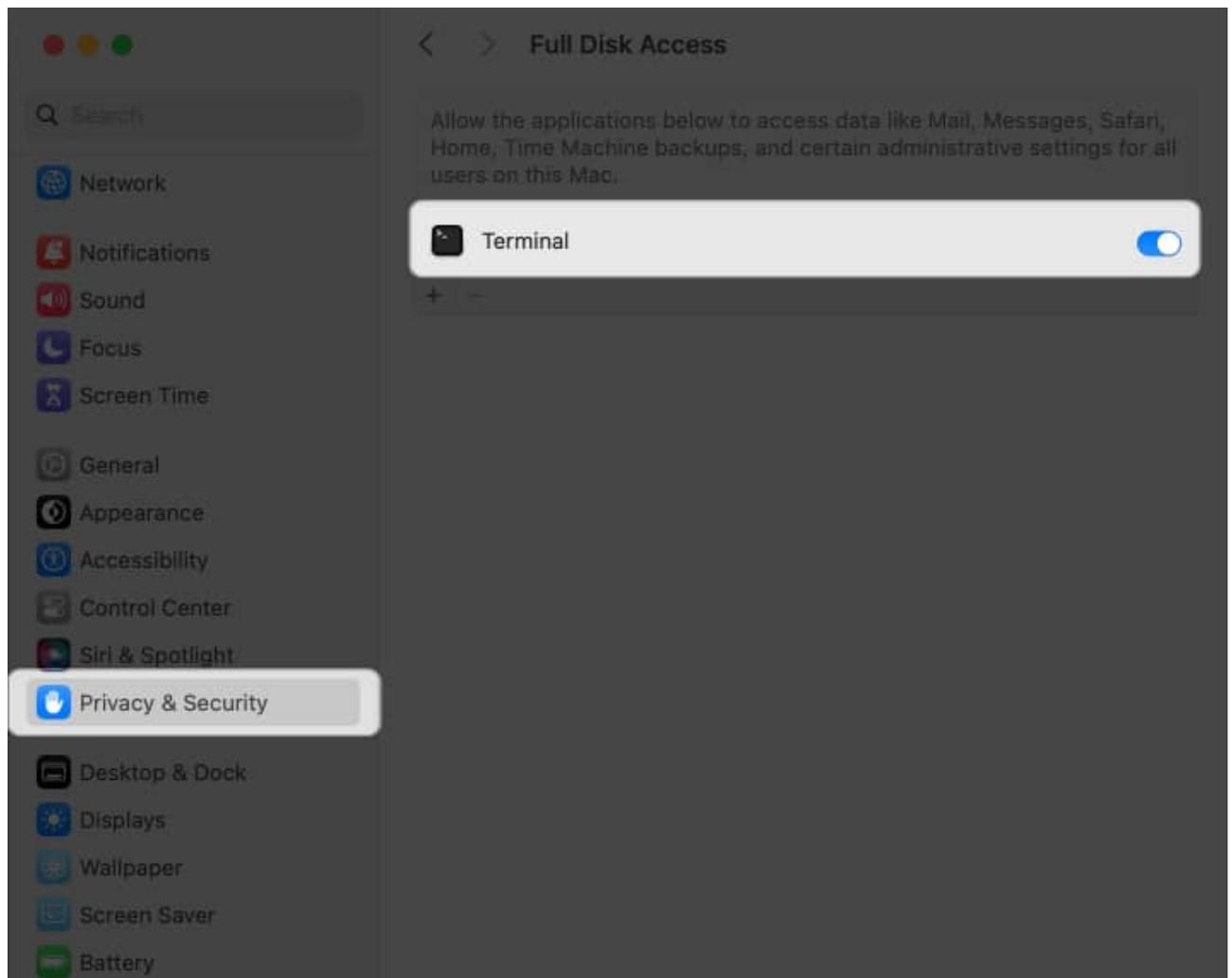
15. Launch **Spotlight (cmd + Space bar)** → Open **Terminal**.
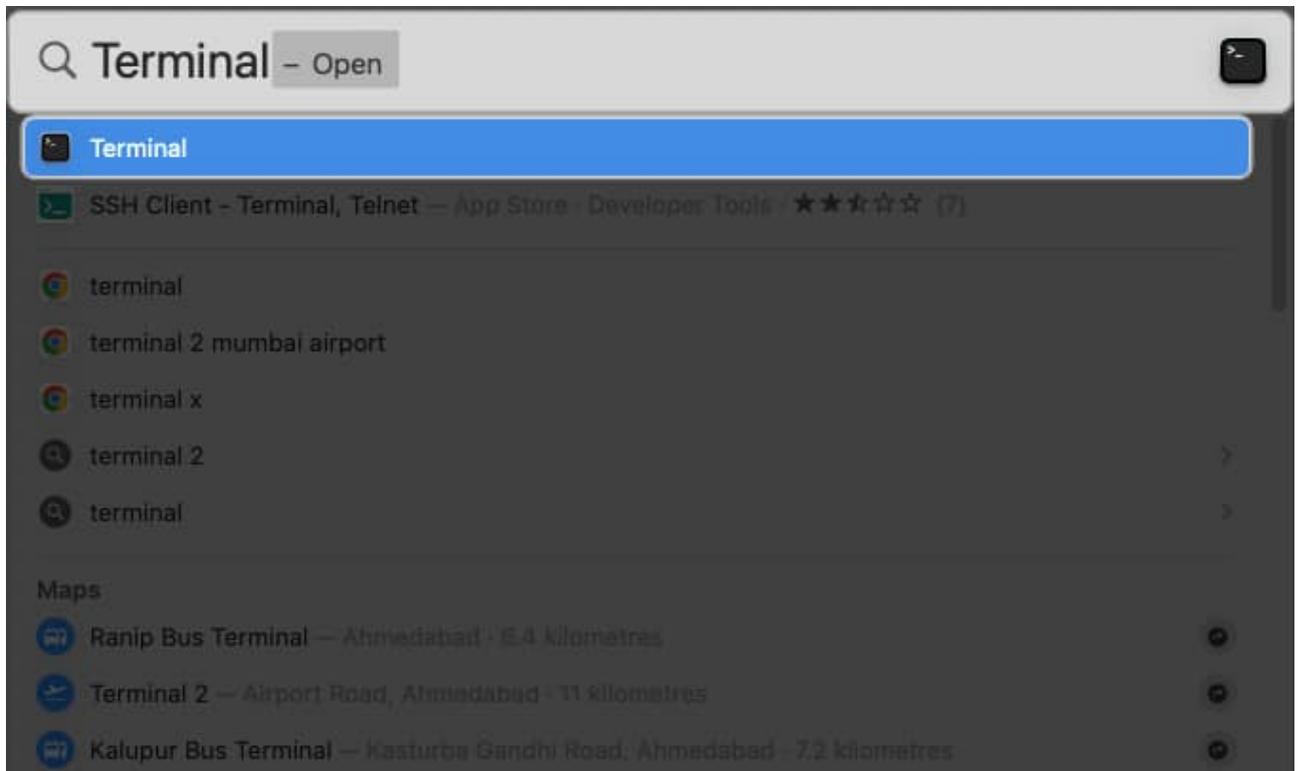
16. Enter **ln -s /Volumes/Drive/Backup/ ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/** → Hit **return**.
    It will create a symlink of the Backup file beside the old backup folder.

17. Connect your **iPhone** to your Mac using a [USB C to lightning cable](#).
18. Finally, launch **Finder** → Select **your iPhone** under Locations.

19. Shift to the **General tab** → Click **Back Up Now**.
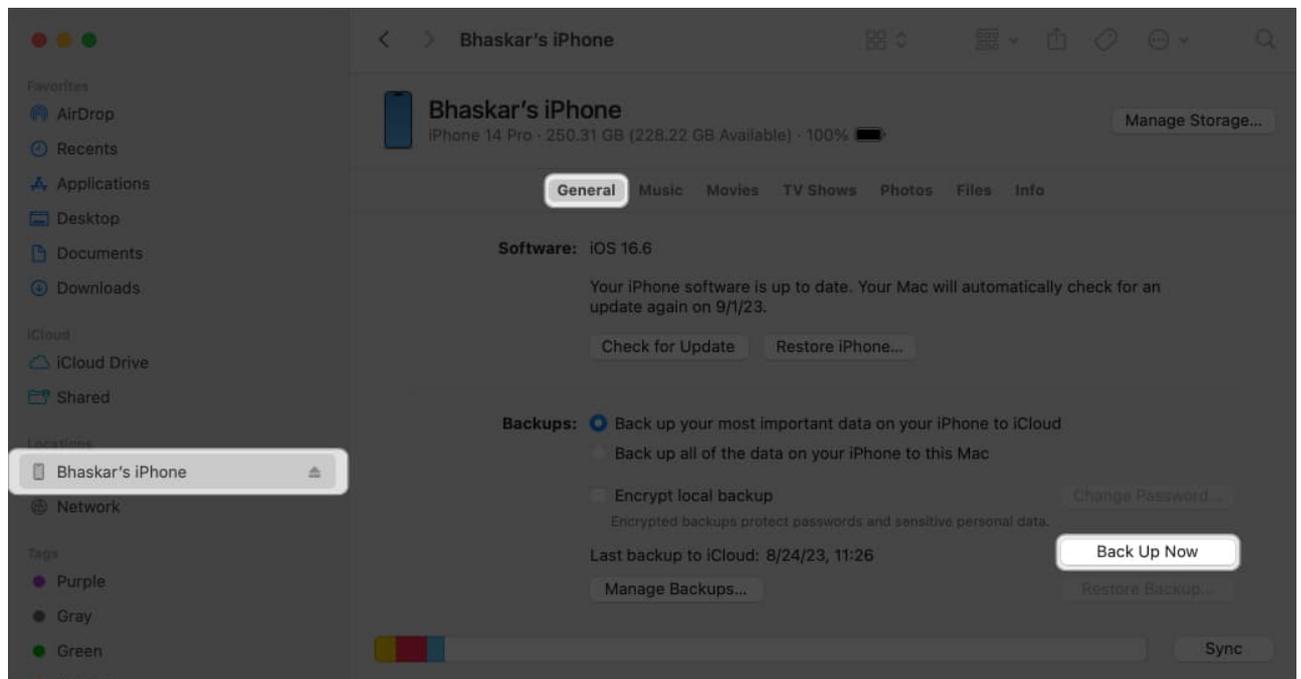
How to make a personalized file path command for your backup location

1. Open **Notes**.
2. Copy the following command: `ln -s /Volumes/Drive/Backup/ ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/`.
3. Change `/Volumes/Drive/Backup/` part in the command to match the location of your own Backup folder.
   - If your Backup folder is in **Macintosh HD** → **Users** → **Backup**, your new command will be `ln -s /Volumes/Macintosh HD/Users/Backup/ ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/`.
   - If a location has multiple words like **Macintosh HD**, use a backslash and a single space like `Macintosh HD`.
   - If your Backup folder is in an external pen drive called Bhaskar, the command becomes `ln -s /Volumes/Bhaskar/Backup/ ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/`.
   - If the Backup folder is within a folder named iPhone on your pen drive, the command becomes `ln -s /Volumes/Donald/iPhone/Backup/ ~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync/`.

Now you know how to adjust the path in the command based on where your Backup folder is located. You're now ready to use this command to perform specific tasks.

How to restore iPhone backup folder to its original location on Mac

1. Open **Finder** → Click **Go** in the menu bar → Choose **Go to Folder**.
2. Type **~/Library/Application Support/MobileSync** → Press **return**.
3. Look for a **file with an arrow icon**.
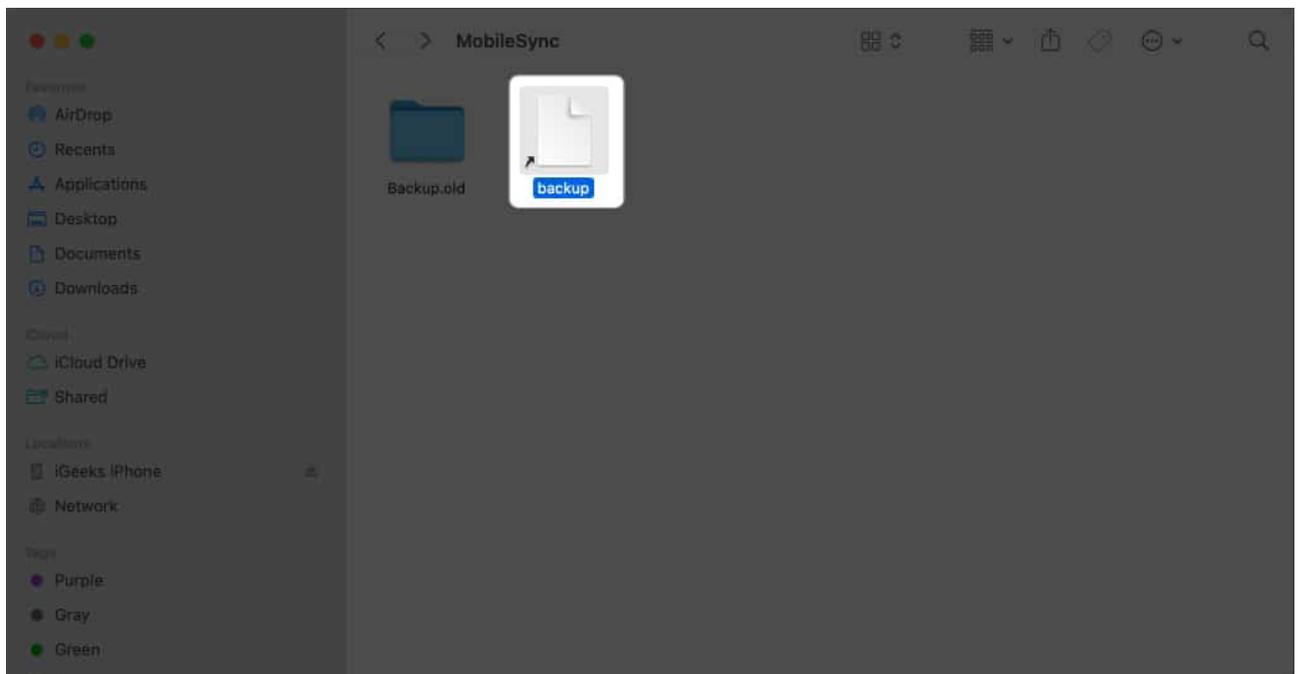
4. **Right-click** on the file → Select **Move to Trash**.
   *You can also drag and drop the **file** to the bin icon.*
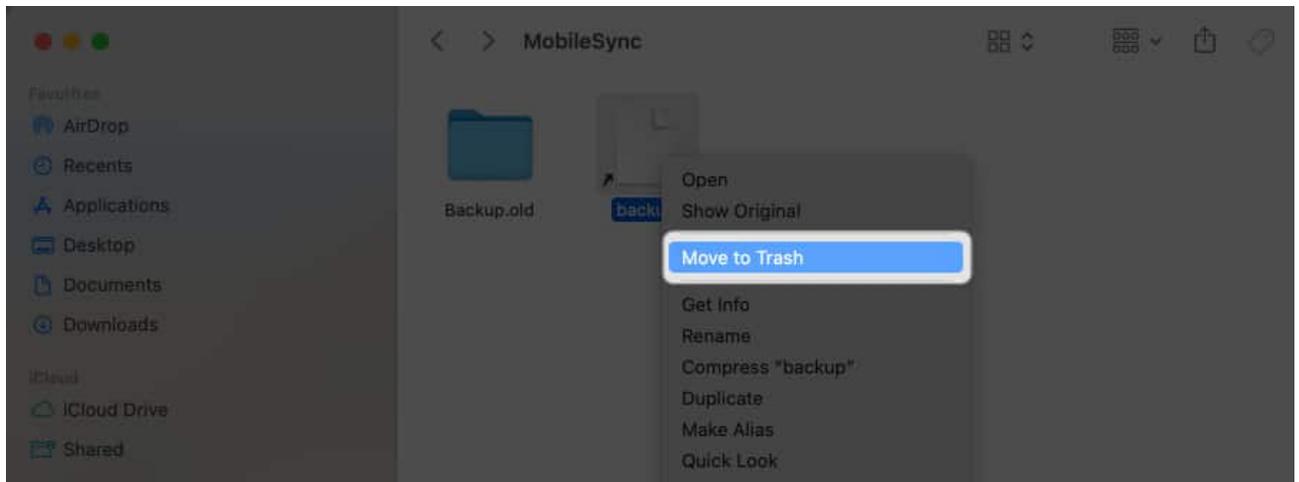
5. To be safe, put the **current Backup folder** in the **default location**.
   Note: If you don't do this step, a new Backup folder will be created automatically the next time you back up your device.

Now, all your upcoming iPhone backups will now go here.

How to change iPhone backup location on Windows laptop

If you're using an iPhone alongside a Windows computer, don't worry. You can change the location where your iPhone backup files are stored using Apple's native iTunes application for Windows.

1. Right-click on the **Start** → Select **File Explorer**.
2. Go to the **location** where you want to move your iPhone backup.
3. Right-click on an **empty area** → Choose **New Folder**.
4. Rename the folder as **MobileSync.**
   Don't close the File Explorer.
5. Open a new **File Explorer window**.
6. Go to *C:UsersUserNameAppleMobileSync*.
7. Right-click on your **current iPhone backup folder** → Select **Copy**.
8. Head back to the **MobileSync folder** you created earlier → Paste your **iPhone backup folder**.
9. Rename the **current iPhone backup** folder to Old Backup.
10. Right-click on the **Start button** → Click on **Command Prompt**.
11. Type *MkLink /J "C:UsersUserNameAppleMobileSyncBackup"*

"C:MobileSyncBackup".

In case you installed iTunes from outside the Windows Store, type ***MkLink /J "C:UsersUserNameAppDataRoamingApple ComputerMobileSyncBackup" "C:MobileSyncBackup"***.

Save space on your Mac!

Here's how to create fresh backups for your iOS or iPadOS and stash them in a new spot. Shuffling backup files to another folder within your device's insides doesn't quite save space. Yet, if you move the iPhone backup to an external drive, you'll lighten the load on your primary storage.

I hope the info above did the trick. If you hit a snag anywhere, please drop us a line in the comments section. I'm here to help!

FAQs

Does changing the backup location affect the security or encryption of my backups?

No, changing the backup location doesn't affect the security or encryption of your backups. Finder will still encrypt your backups if you've enabled encryption.

Will changing the backup location impact the storage used on my Mac's system drive?

Yes, changing the backup location can help free up space on your Mac's system drive. This can be particularly beneficial if your system drive runs low on storage.

Is there a risk of data loss when changing the backup location?

When following the correct procedures, the risk of data loss is minimal. However, it's always recommended to have a backup of your data before making any changes to ensure you can restore it if needed.

Can I change the backup location for multiple iOS devices individually?

Yes, you can change the backup location for each iOS device individually. Create separate symbolic links or choose different locations using the Finder method.

Read more:

- [How to fix Mac won't turn on after update](#)