iGEEKSBLOG

Key Takeaway

- With iOS 18, you can finally hide and lock apps on your iPhone natively to prevent unauthorized access.
- When you lock an app, it can only be accessed upon authentication using Face ID, Touch ID, or passcode.
- On the other hand, when you hide an app, it goes straight to the Hidden folder in the App Library. You can only access it when you unlock the Hidden folder using ID, Touch ID, or passcode.

Apple has integrated several privacy features on the iPhone over the years to help keep your data secure and private. This year's iOS 18 update adds the much-awaited feature to lock or hide apps on the iPhone.

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In this article, we will show you how to lock and hide apps in iOS 18 on your iPhone. Before we begin, though, let's review what you need to know about this feature.

Table of Contents

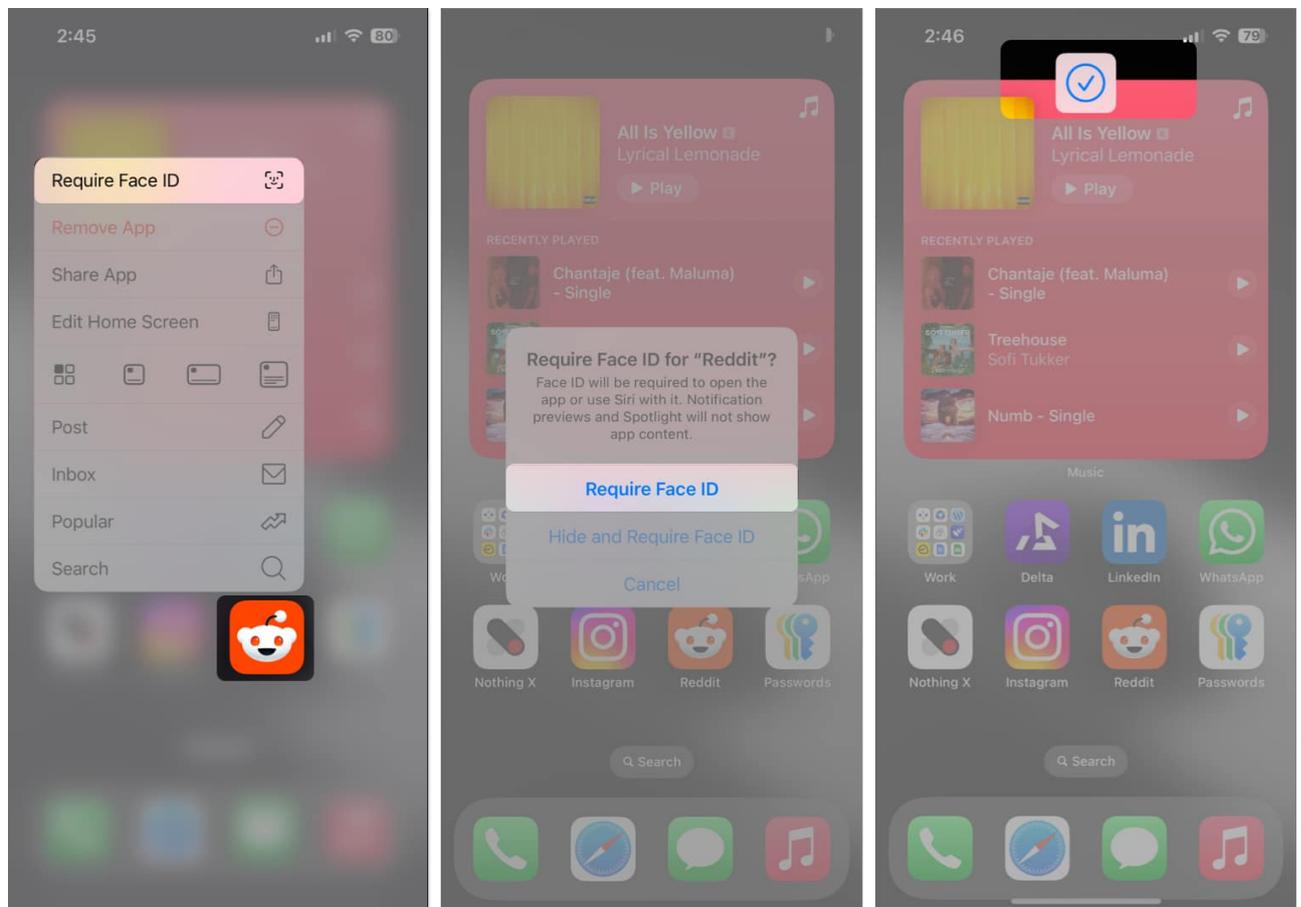# Why would you want to lock or hide apps on your iPhone?

There are several reasons why you may want to lock or hide an app on your iPhone:

- We all feel anxious when our friends, family, or children use our iPhones. You wouldn't want them to open an app that may show any personal or sensitive information. Locking or hiding them is the best way to avoid this.
- When you're at your workplace, you wouldn't want to accidentally open up any apps that aren't appropriate for a professional setting. Hiding such apps will help you in such situations.
- Apps that provide banking and financial services contain sensitive information. You may want to prevent unauthorized access to such apps by locking them.
- If you let your kids use your iPhone, locking apps can help prevent accidental in-app purchases. Further, you can lock apps to prevent your kids from changing any important settings on your iPhone.

How to lock apps in iOS 18

Locking apps on an iPhone is fairly straightforward. Here's what you need to do:

1. Tap and hold the icon of the app you want to hide on the Home Screen or App Library.
2. Select **Require Face ID** (or **Touch ID**) depending on the device you are using. If you haven't set up biometrics, you will see the **Require Passcode** option.
3. Select **Require Face ID (**or **Touch ID** or **Passcode**), and it will lock the app on your iPhone.

When you lock an app on your iPhone, you can only access it after you unlock it using Face ID, Touch ID, or passcode. Any information from the app won't be available in Spotlight Search, nor will it be accessible through Siri. You will, however, still get notifications.

Note
Certain iPhone apps, such as Calculator, Camera, Clock, Contacts, Find My, Maps, Shortcuts, and Settings, cannot be locked.
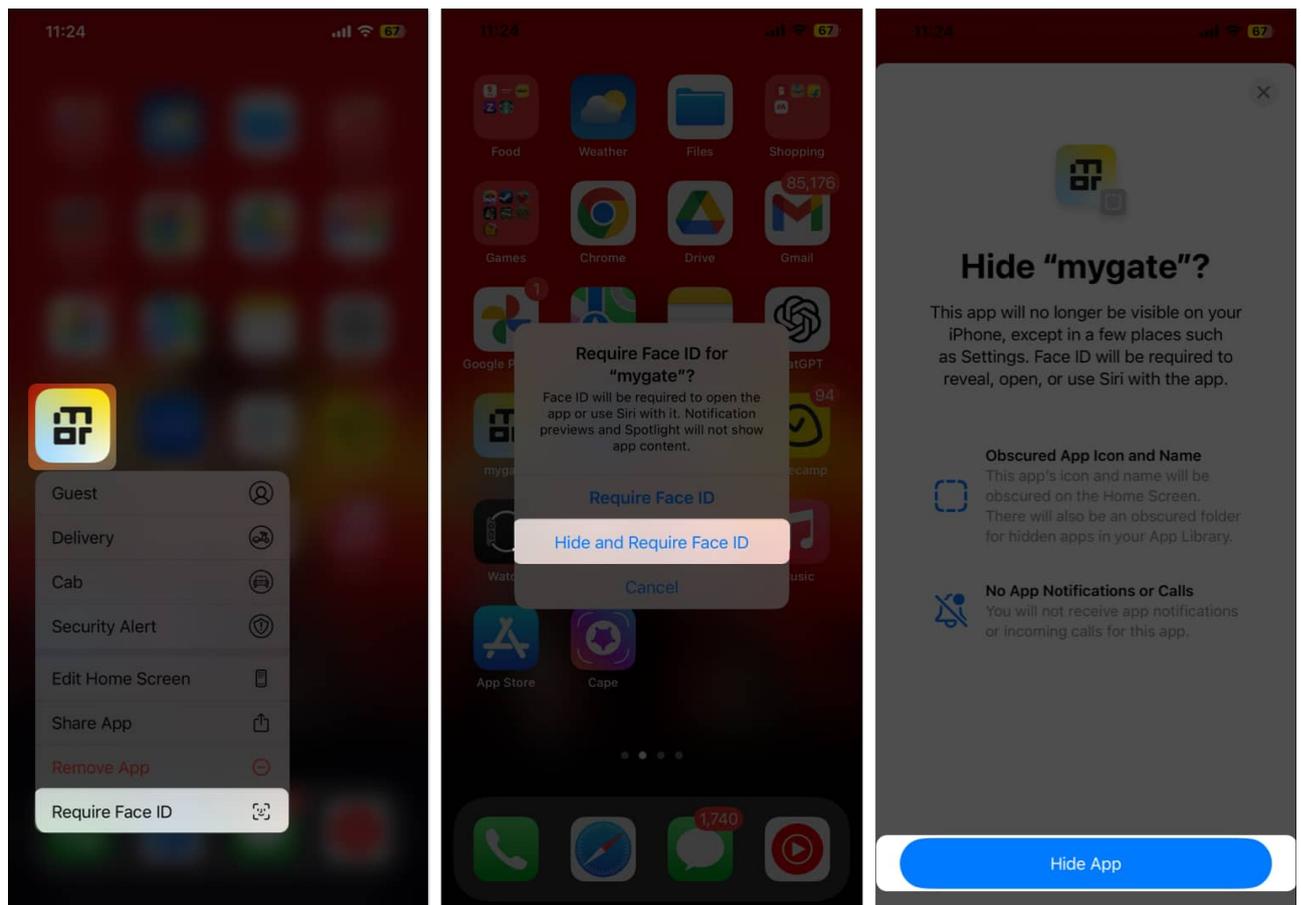
How to hide apps in iOS 18

We've all put apps deep inside folders to hide them from the Home Screen. But those days are gone, as you can now easily and quickly hide apps on an iPhone with a single tap. Here's how:

1. Tap and hold the icon of the app you want to hide.
2. Select **Require Face ID (**or **Touch ID**) depending on the device you are using. If you

haven't set up biometrics, you will see the **Require Passcode** option.
3. Select **Hide and Require Face ID (or Touch ID or Passcode**).
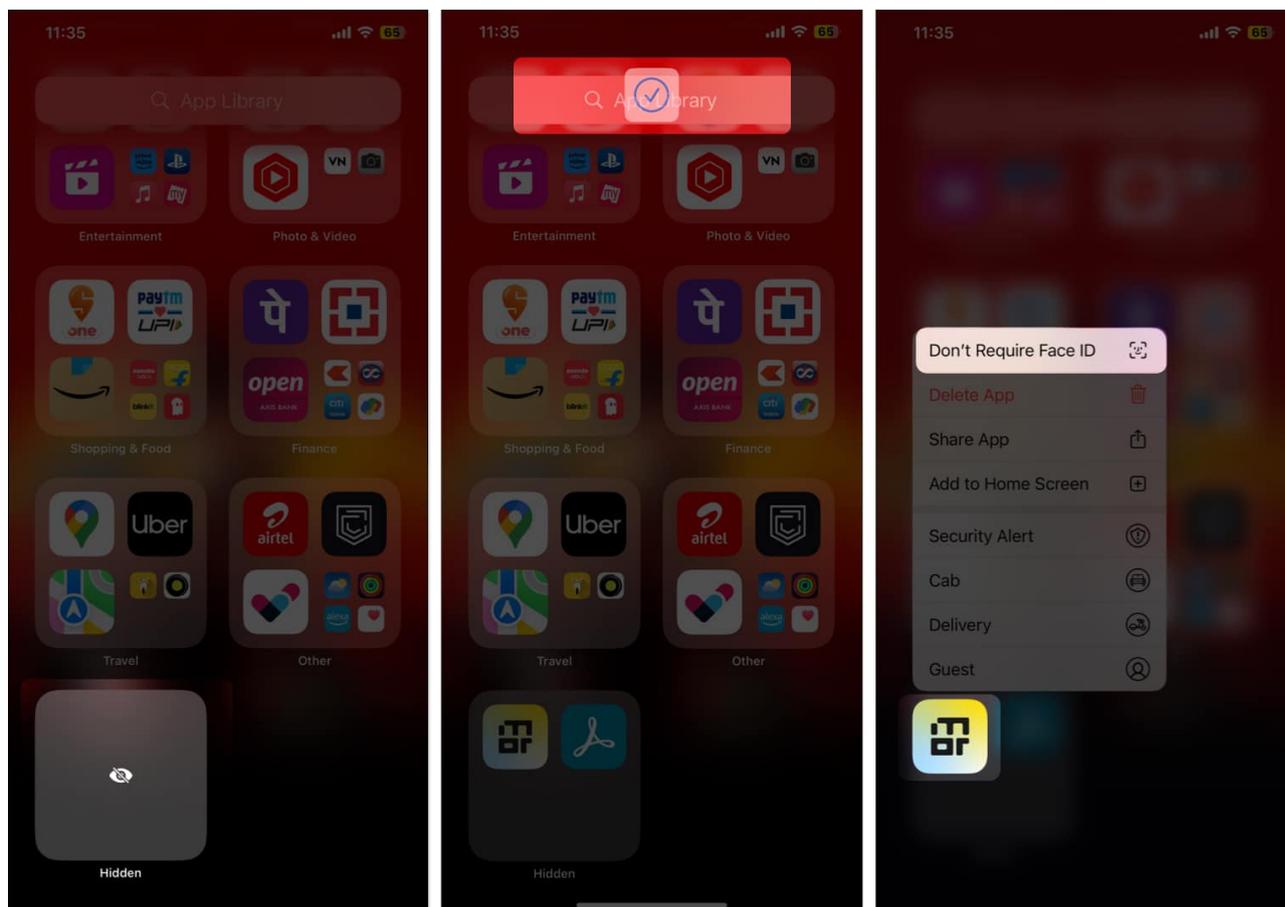4. Finally, tap on **Hide App** to hide and lock the app on your iPhone.

When you lock and hide an app on your iPhone, it will be sent to the **Hidden** folder in the App Library. You will need to enter your Face ID, Touch ID, or passcode to open this folder and access the hidden app. When an app is hidden, it's hidden from everywhere—except for the Settings app—and you won't be able to find its information through Spotlight Search or Siri, either.

How to unhide and remove the lock from apps in iOS 18

If you ever want to unhide and remove the lock from an app on your iPhone, you can follow these steps:

1. Open the **Hidden** folder in the App Library.

2. Tap and hold the app you want to unhide and select **Don't Require Face ID (**or **Touch ID** or **Passcode.)**

This will [unhide the app](#) and remove its lock, and you will see it again in your App Library. If you hid an app you had on the Home Screen, removing the lock and unhiding it won't put it back on the Home Screen.

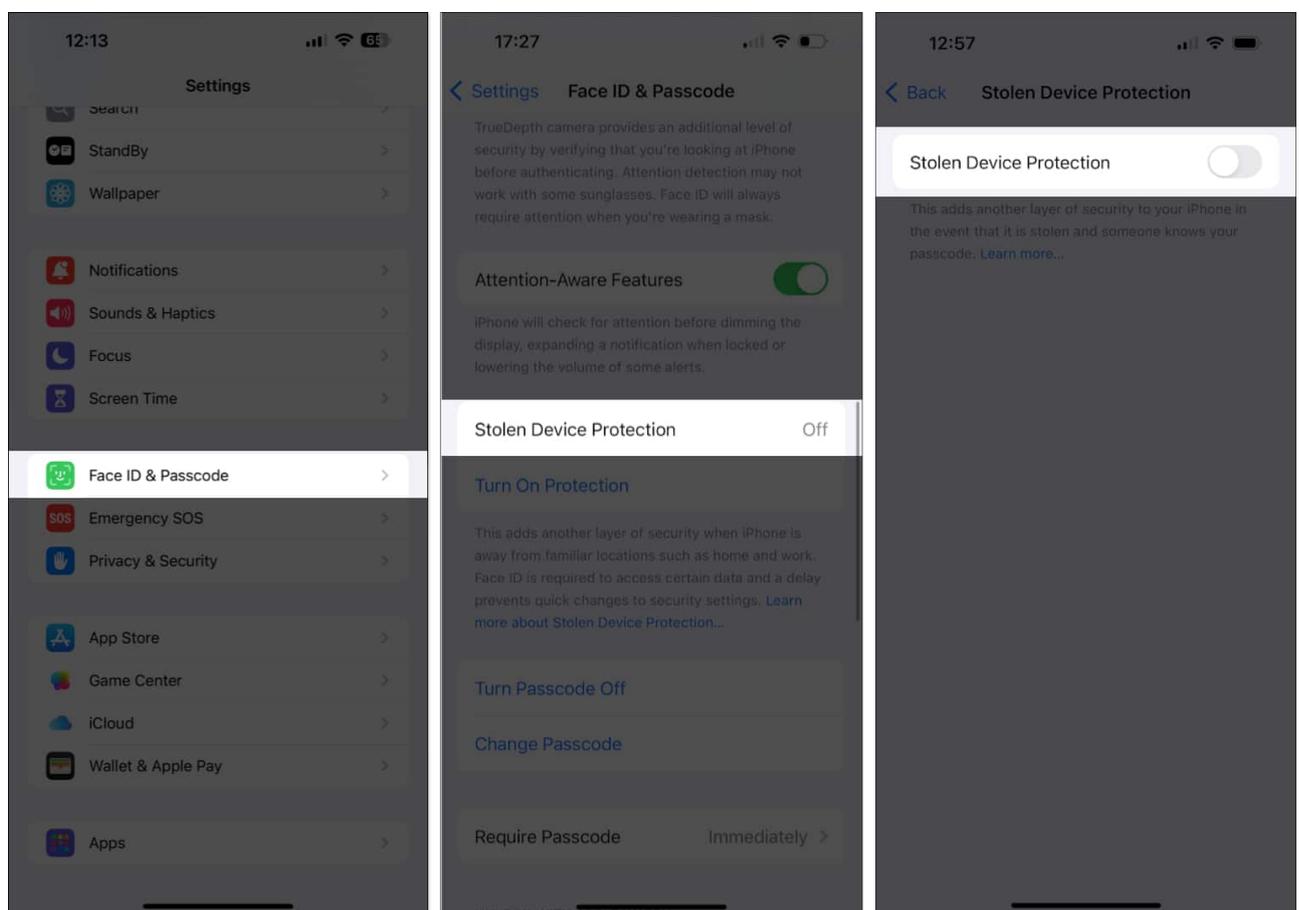# Can't unlock apps using a passcode? Turn off Stolen Device Protection

If you've enabled the [Stolen Device Protection](#) feature on your iPhone, you will not be able to hide or lock apps unless you have Face ID or Touch ID enabled. This is an additional security measure to protect your hidden apps from being accessed with your passcode.

We wouldn't recommend turning off Stolen Device Protection, as it prevents thieves from

turning off Find My iPhone and makes it a little less difficult to locate your device. So if you want to hide or lock apps on your iPhone, you better use Touch ID or Face ID.

If you insist otherwise, here's how you can turn off Stolen Device Protection on your iPhone.

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Go to **Face ID & Passcode**.
3. Tap on **Stolen Device Protection** and turn it off.

Wrapping up…

Thanks to Apple, you no longer have to use the Content Restrictions feature to block access to apps on your iPhone. Simply follow the instructions above, and you can easily lock apps (or hide them for more privacy) to prevent unauthorized access.

Did you know you can also [hide photos in a hidden album](link) on your iPhone? You can read our article that explains how you can do it!

If you have any further questions, drop them in the comments below.

FAQs

Can you hide apps on an iPhone on older iOS versions?

Yes, you can [use Screen Time](#) restrictions and prevent app access on your iPhone.

Is there any way to lock multiple apps at once?

Unfortunately, there's no way to do this. You can only lock or hide one app at a time.

Is it possible to hide the Hidden folder from the App Library?

No, the Hidden folder is always visible in the App Library. But you shouldn't worry about unauthorized access, as accessing it requires Face ID or Touch ID authentication.

Can you lock apps on your iPhone with a custom passcode?

No, you can only lock them using the passcode meant to unlock the device.

Read more:

- [Face ID vs. Touch ID: A comparative analysis](#)
- [How to customize your iPhone's Home Screen](#)