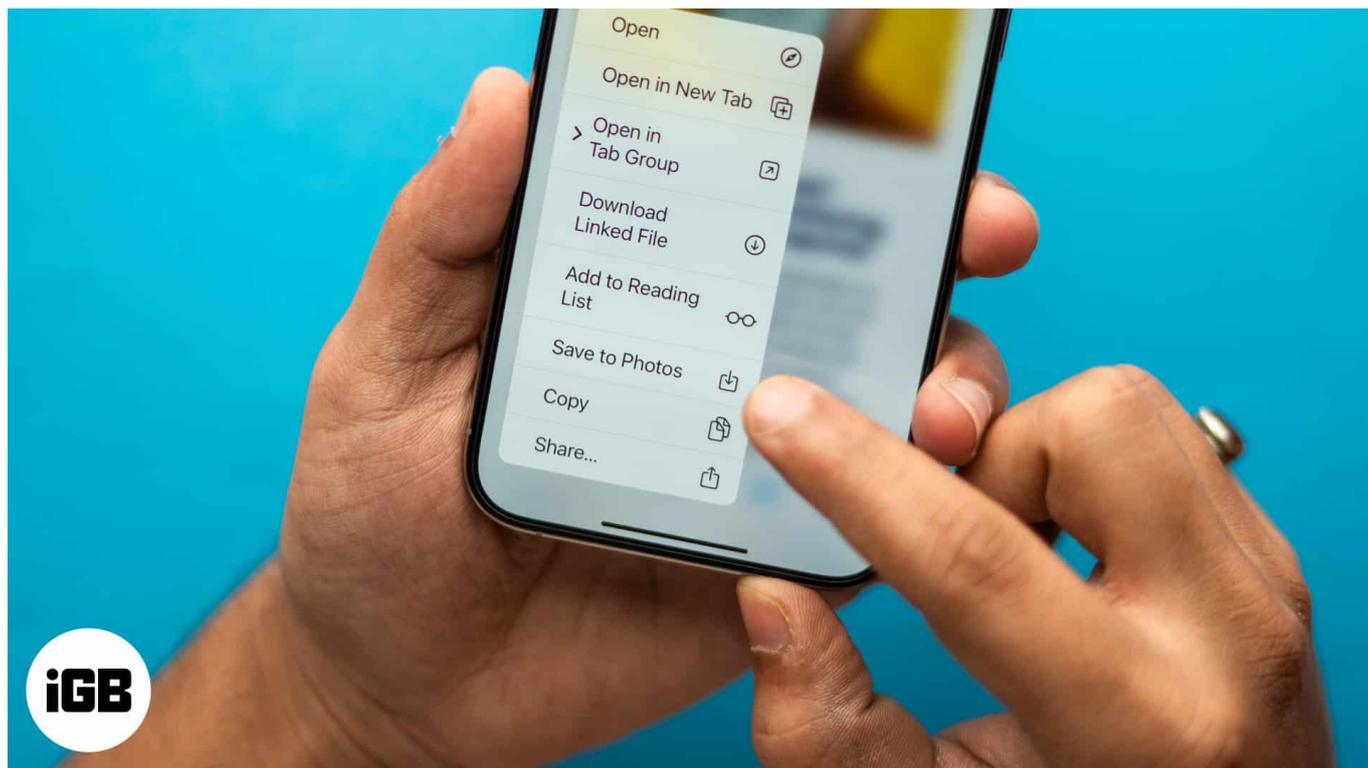


Safari, Apple's native browser, offers a wide range of features. Like other browsers, it also lets you download files — PDFs, images and others — from the web with ease. While downloading with Safari is typically easy, many still don't know how to manage these Safari downloads on iPhone and iPad.



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But your daunting thought of how to manage Safari downloads on iPhone and iPad stops here. I'll discuss everything you should know about downloading files on Safari in this piece. Let's begin!

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Understanding Safari's download manager

Apple added the download manager in Safari with the release of iOS 13. Thanks to it, you can easily download files from the web and manage them directly from within the Safari browser on your iPhone and iPad.

Here are some key features of Safari's download manager:

- Download tracking
- Download list
- Pause, resume, or cancel downloads
- File management
- Automatic deletion of the download list
- Compatibility with cloud services like iCloud Drive and Dropbox

Where are Safari downloads stored on an iPhone or iPad?

Your download items on Safari are stored in either iCloud Drive or on your iPhone's local storage. However, you can choose the preferred location to store them through the Settings app. I'll cover the steps to do that in a subsequent section of the piece.

Why should you manage downloads in Safari?

Here are some reasons why you should manage your downloads in Safari on your iPhone or iPad:

- **Avoid clutter:** If you download a lot of files in Safari, the folder where you save all your downloads can be the most cluttered location on the Files app. But if you regularly manage your downloads by choosing different download locations for some file types, you can better organize your downloads and make them easy to find.
- **Save storage space:** Downloads often accumulate a lot of storage space on your devices, and a lot of the time they are those you no longer need. Hence, it's important to manage them. That way, you can get rid of unnecessary files and free up some storage.
- **Maintain privacy:** If you share your iPhone or iPad with someone, managing your

downloads is a great way to keep the personal files you've downloaded online properly saved or deleted from prying eyes. With the help of features like auto-deletions, you can ensure no one knows the files you've downloaded on your device over time.

- **Keep your device secure:** You might unintentionally download harmful files online, but by regularly keeping a tab on your downloads, you can easily notice such files and quickly remove them to protect your device from threats.

How to manage download items in Safari on an iPhone or iPad

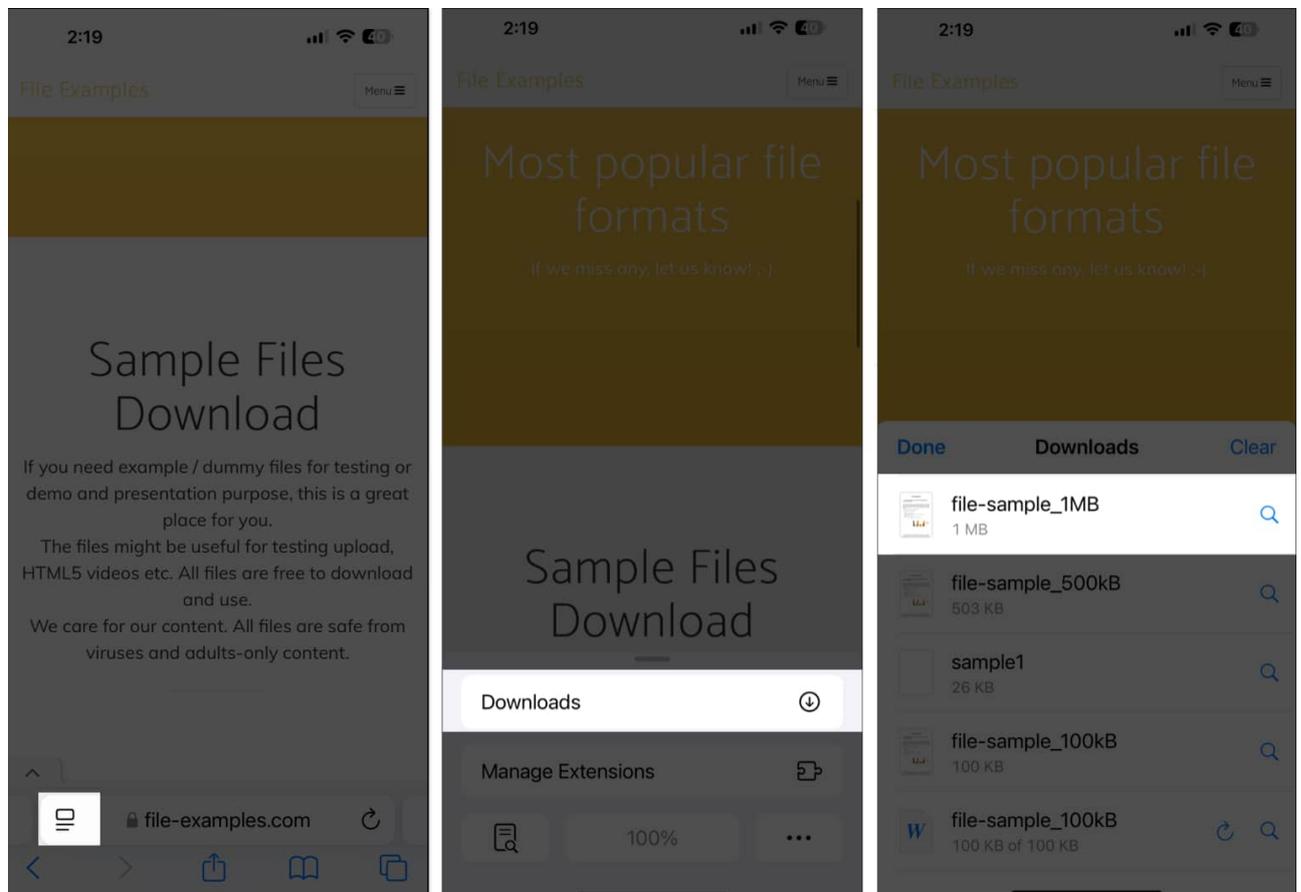
Now that you're familiar with the Safari download manager, let's see how you can use it to manage your downloads effectively.

Access and view downloads in Safari

You can access and view your downloaded files in both Safari and the Files app. Here's what the process looks like on each of them.

On Safari:

1. Tap the **Page Settings** button in the left corner of the address bar.
2. Select **Downloads** to see your downloaded files.
3. Tap the downloaded file to open it. Or tap the search icon next to it to open its location in the Files app.

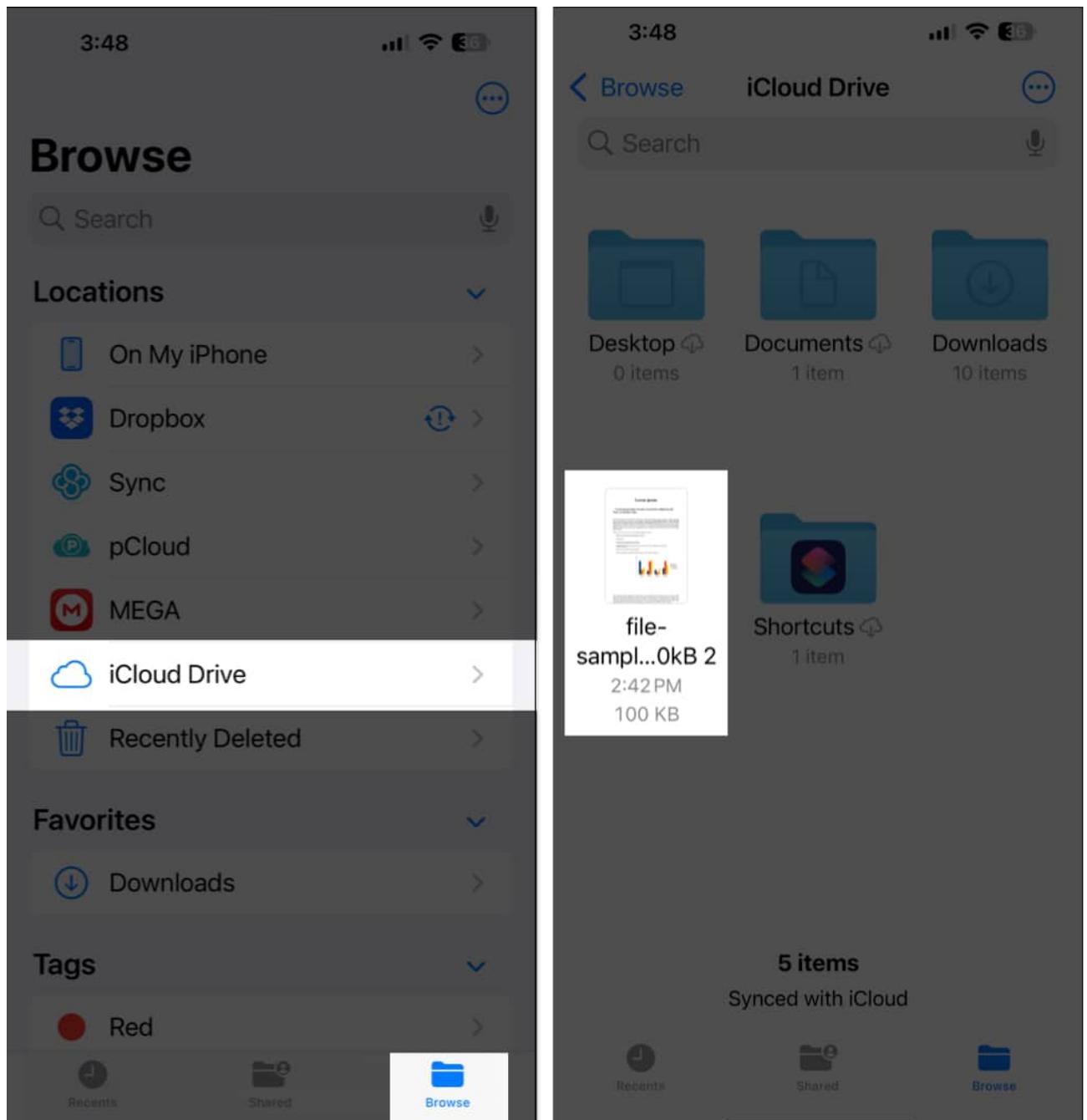


Note

This works if you've just downloaded a file via Safari and the download list has not been cleared.

On the Files app:

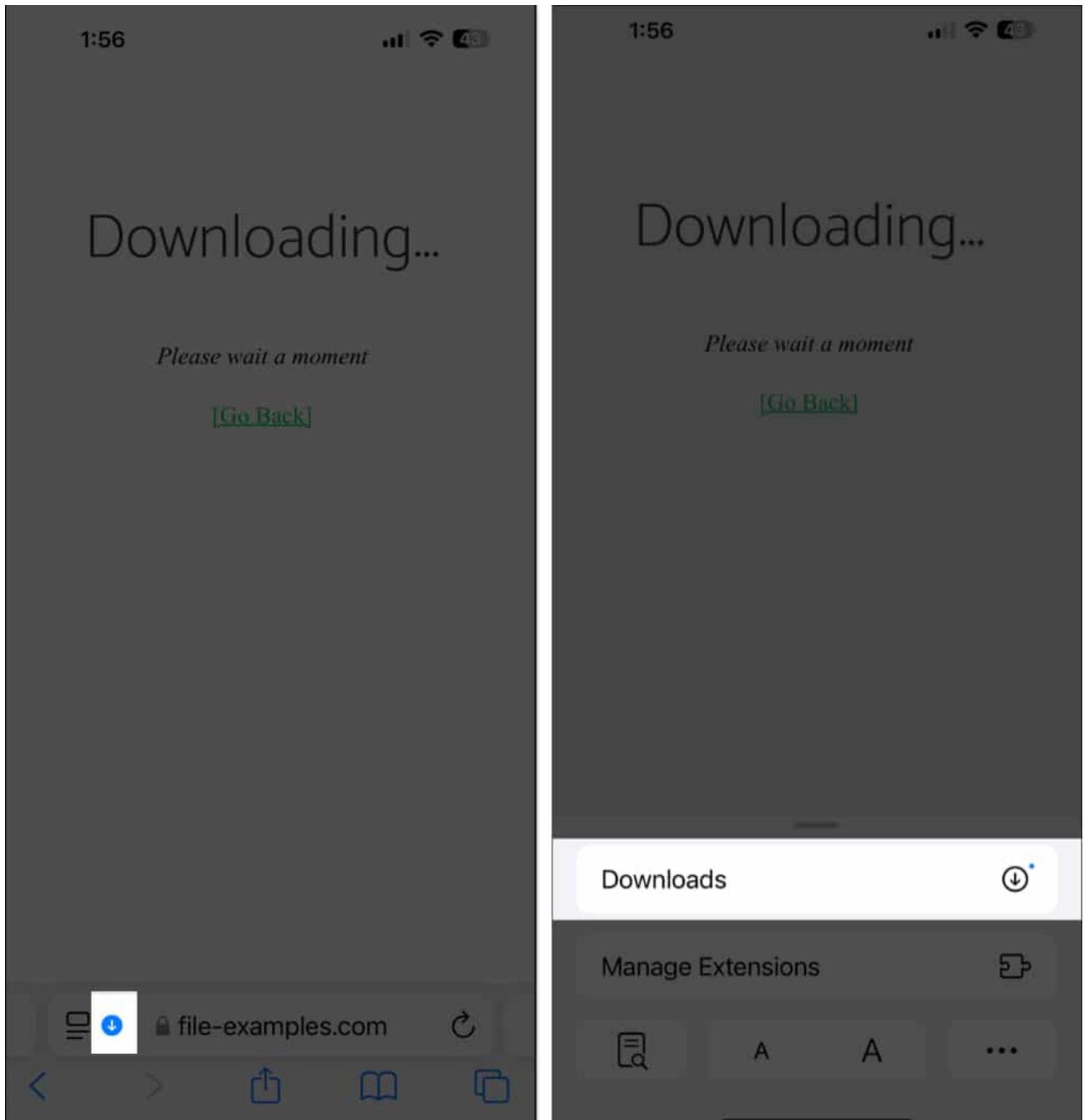
1. Launch the **Files** app on your iPhone or iPad.
2. Select **Browse** and navigate to the location where you saved your download earlier, and you should see the downloaded file(s) there.



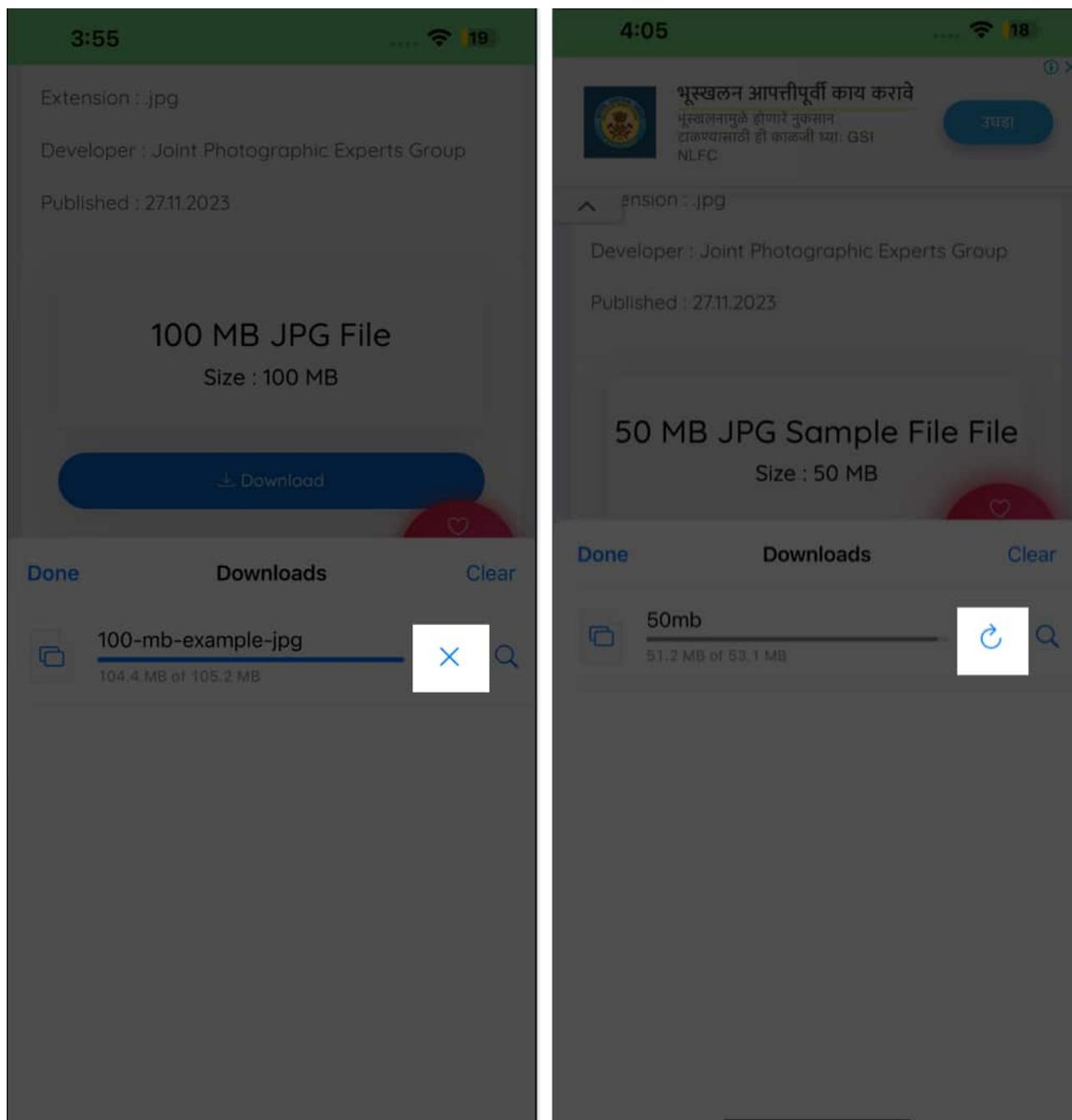
Pause, resume, and cancel downloads in Safari

You can also pause, resume, and cancel downloads in Safari. Here's how:

1. In Safari, tap the arrow inscribed in a circle in the left corner of the address bar and select **Downloads**.



2. Tap the **X** icon on your ongoing download to pause it.
3. To resume the download, tap the curved arrow on the download.

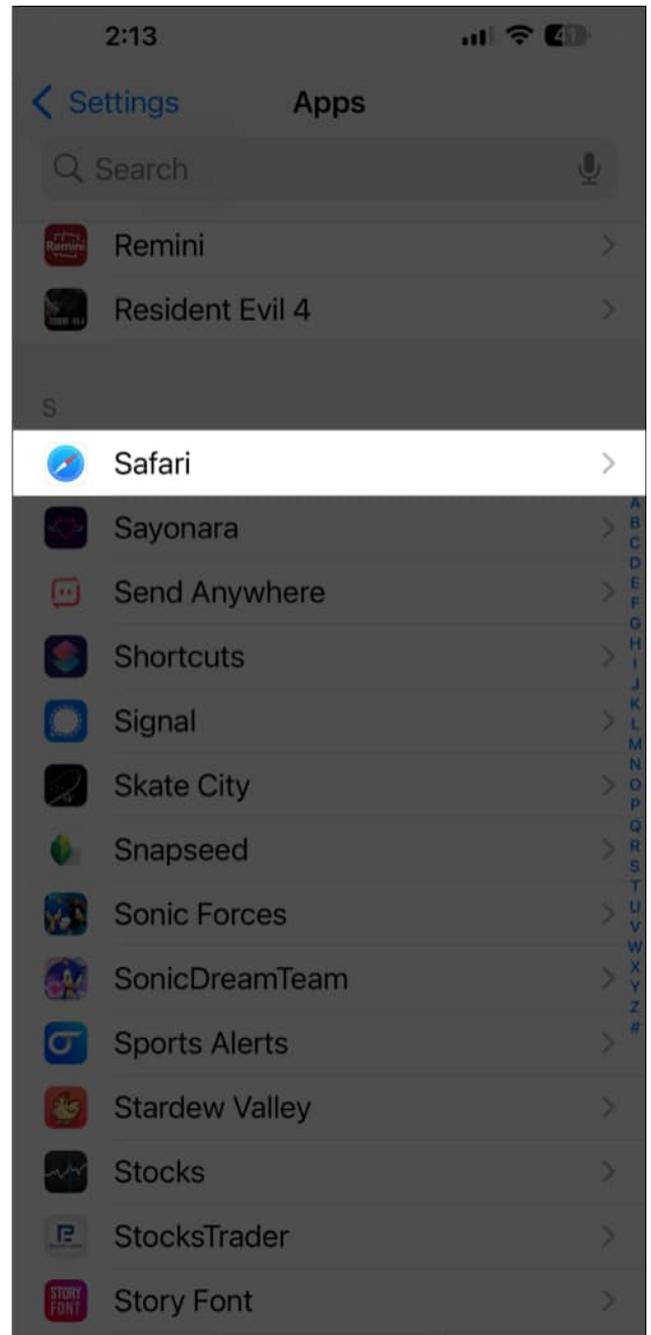
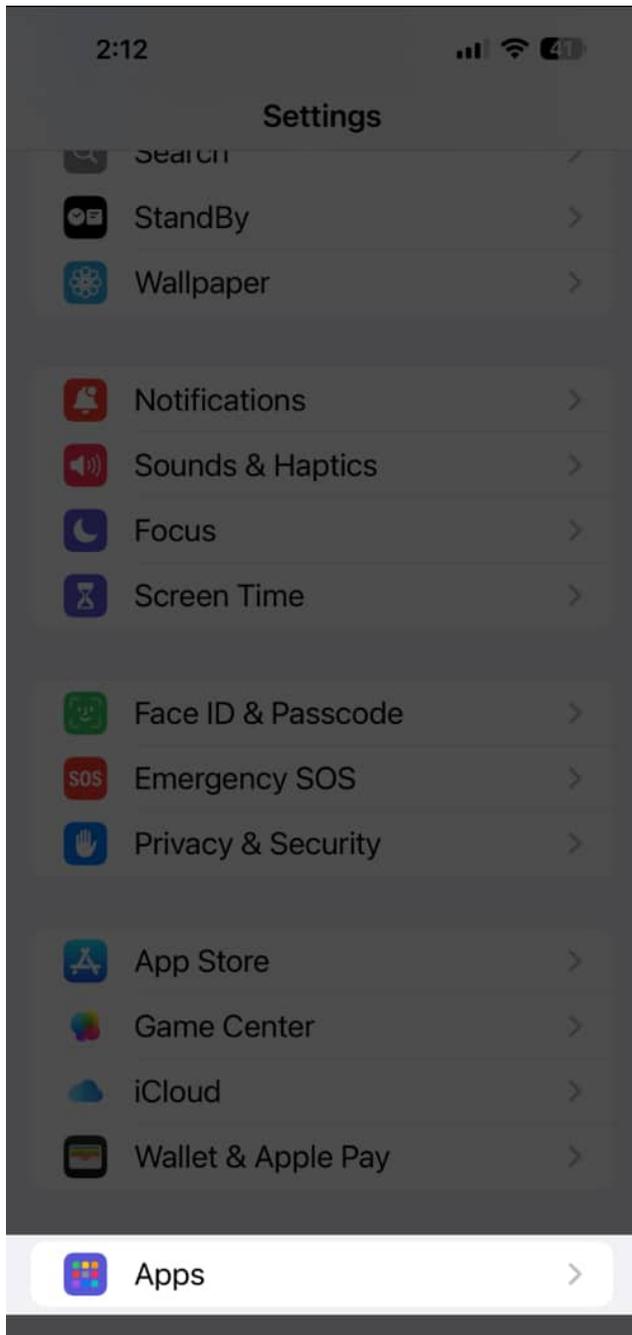


4. While there's no dedicated button to cancel a download, if you want to do it anyway, swipe left on an ongoing download and select **Delete**.

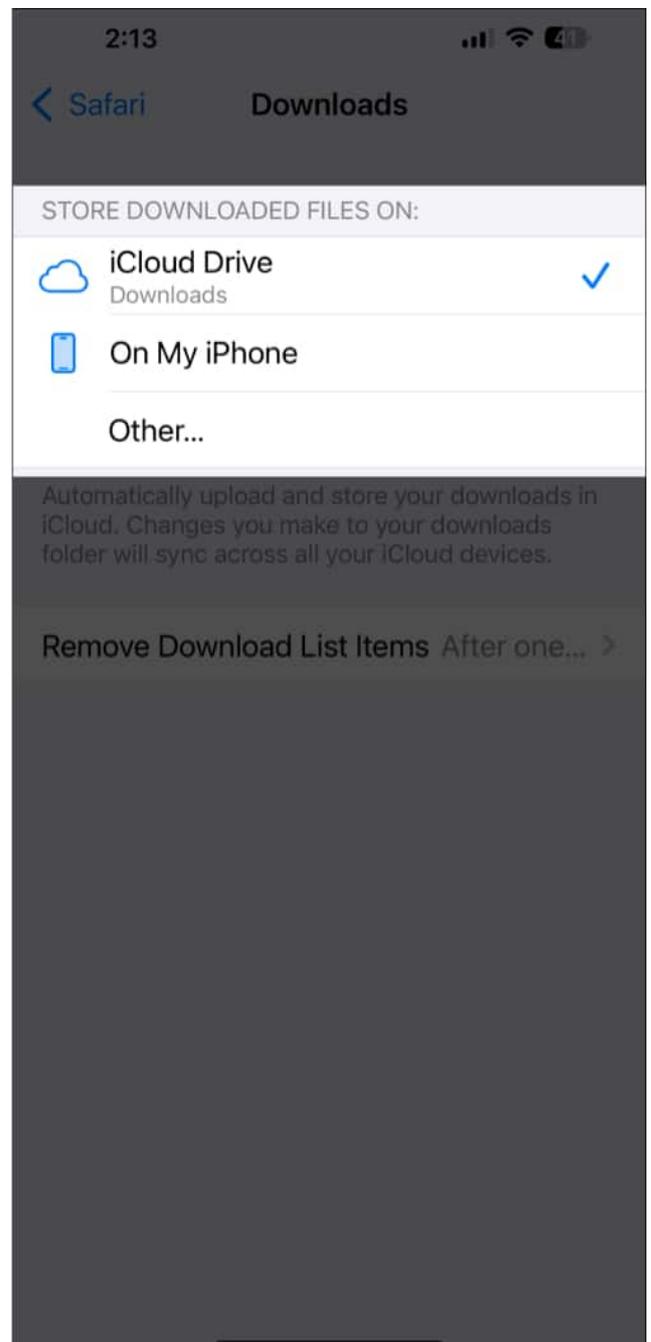
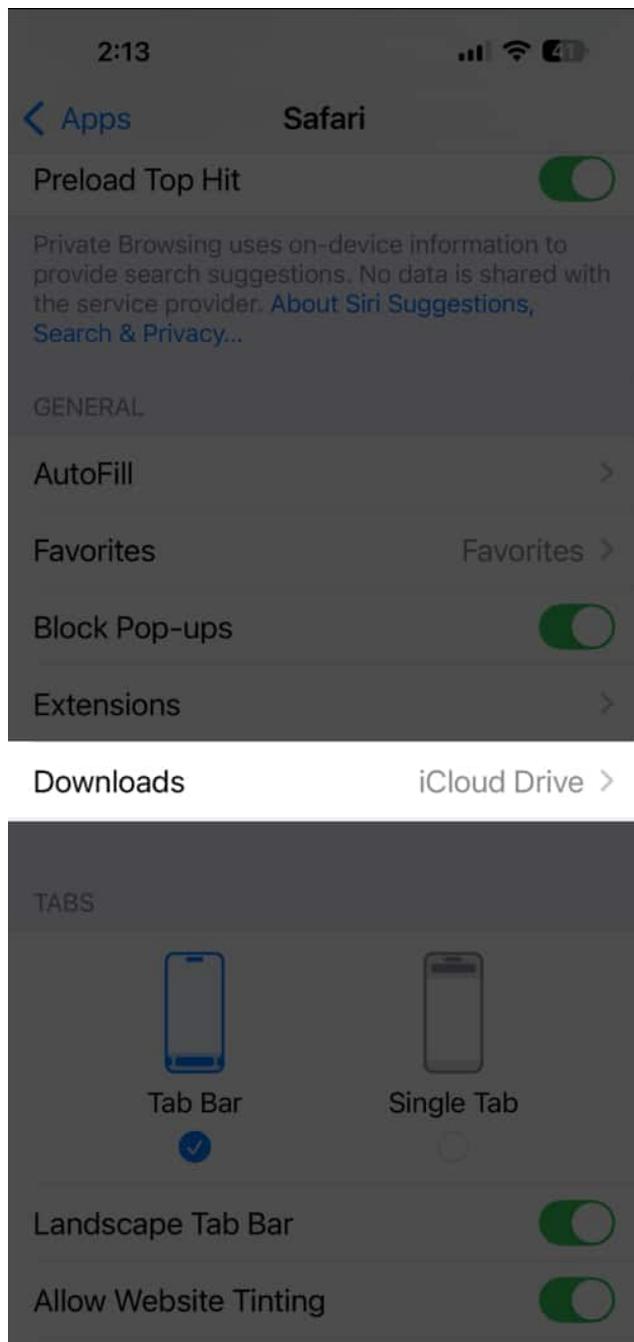
Change the download location in Safari on an iPhone or iPad

Safari lets you store your downloads in iCloud or local storage by default. But you can choose any other location, too. Here's how:

1. Head to the **Settings** app on your iPhone or iPad.
2. Navigate to **Apps**, then tap it and select **Safari** from the app list.



3. Tap **Downloads** under **General**.
4. On the resulting page, choose where you want to save your downloads from the available options: **iCloud Drive**, **On My iPhone/iPad**, or **Other**.



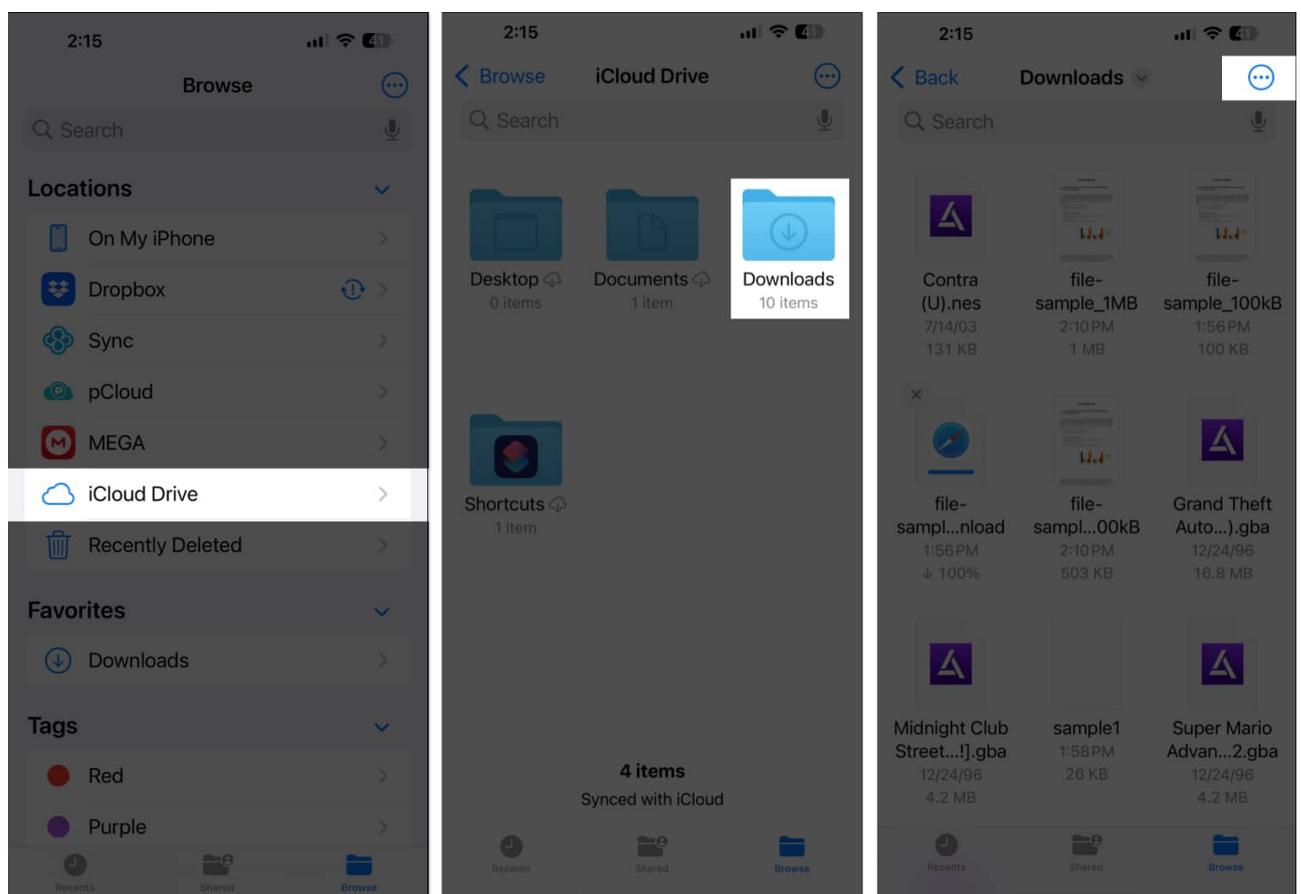
Note

Choosing iCloud Drive means your downloads will sync across all devices connected to the iCloud.

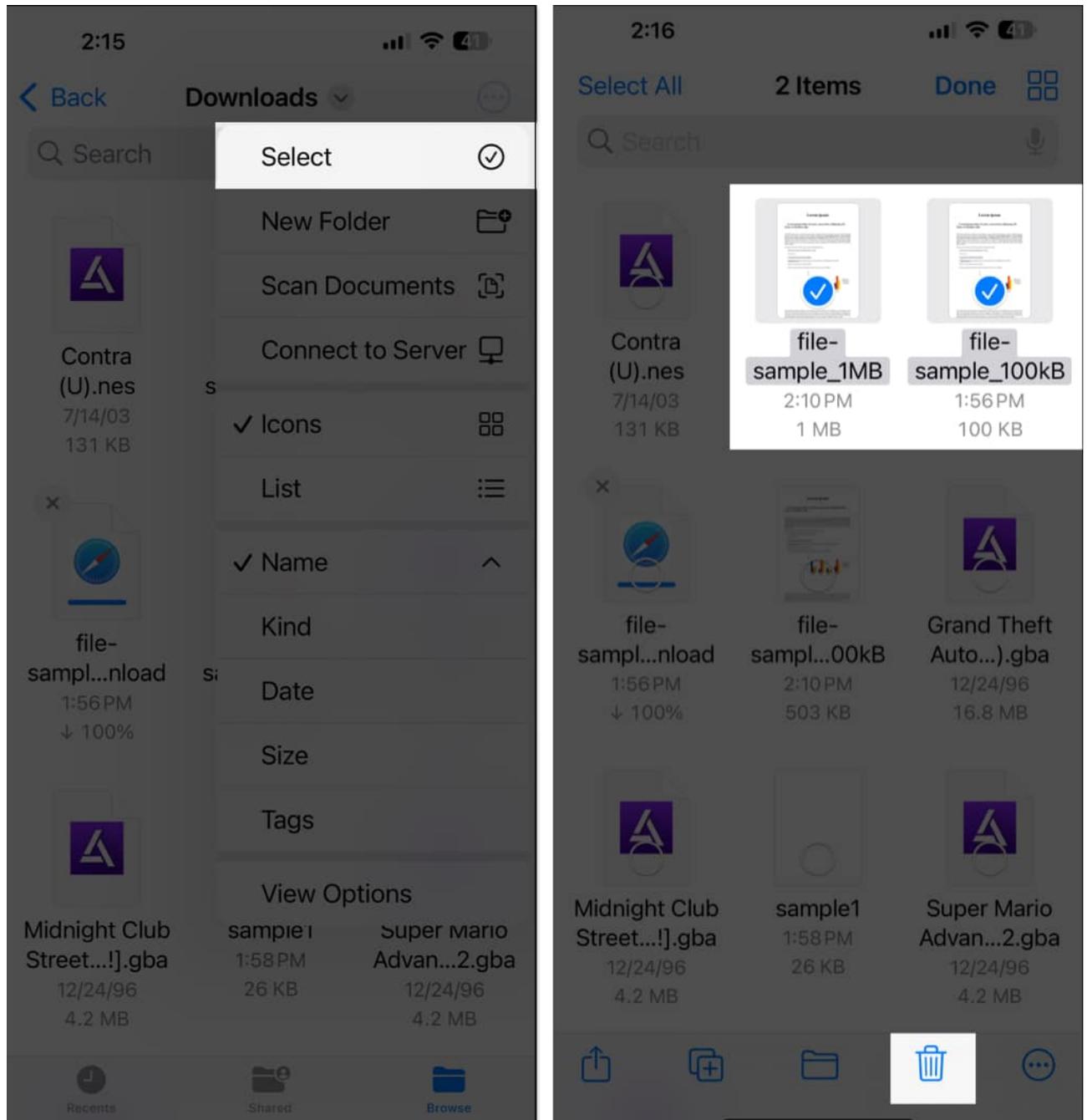
Delete Safari downloads on an iPhone

You can delete Safari downloads on your iPhone and iPad by going to the location it's saved in the Files app and deleting the file there. Here are the steps to do that:

1. Open the **Files** app on your iPhone or iPad.
2. Go to the location where your Safari downloads are saved.
3. Tap the three-dot menu in the top-right corner.



4. Next, tap **Select**, then select the downloaded files you want to delete and tap the trash icon at the bottom.

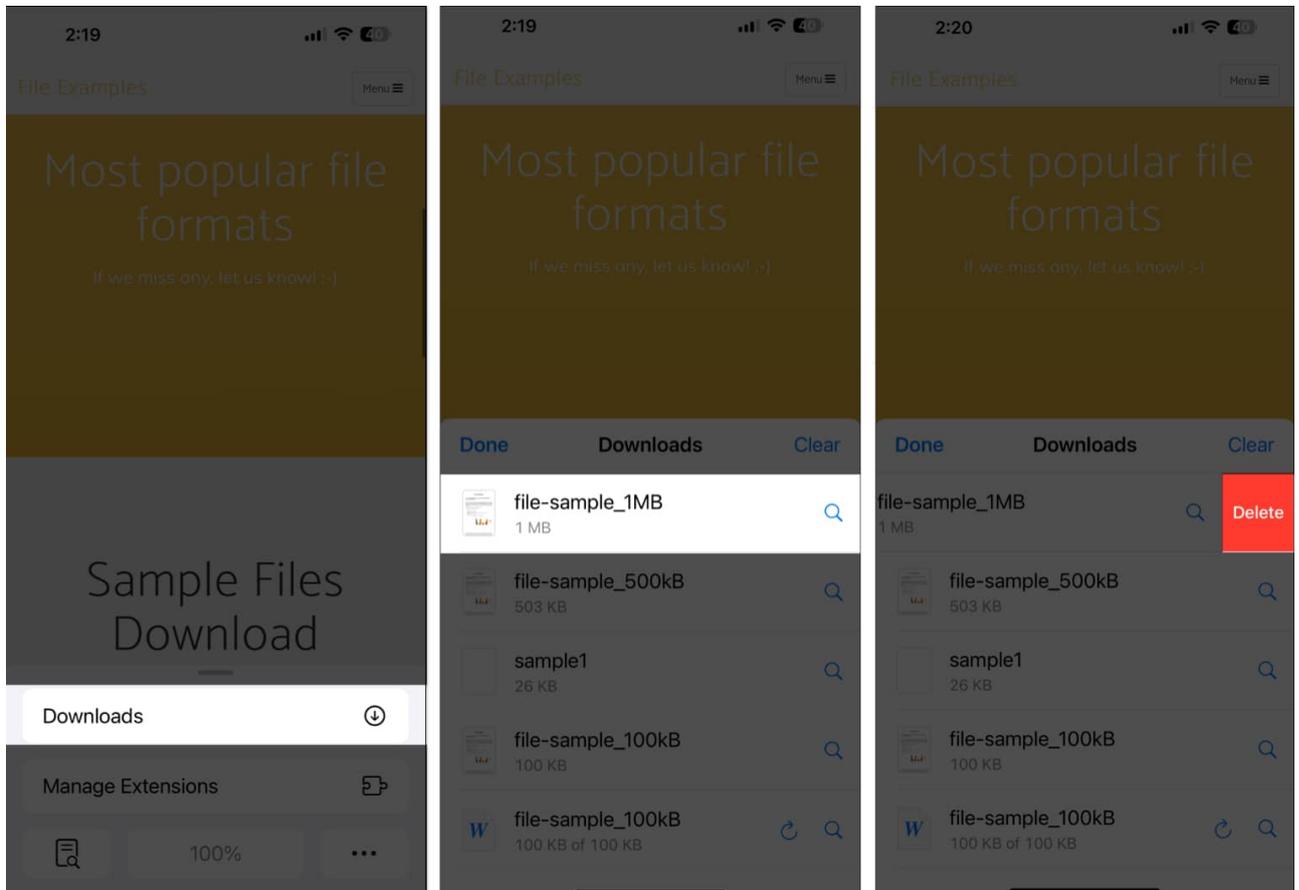


If you want to delete download items in Safari, you can do that, too.

Delete an individual download:

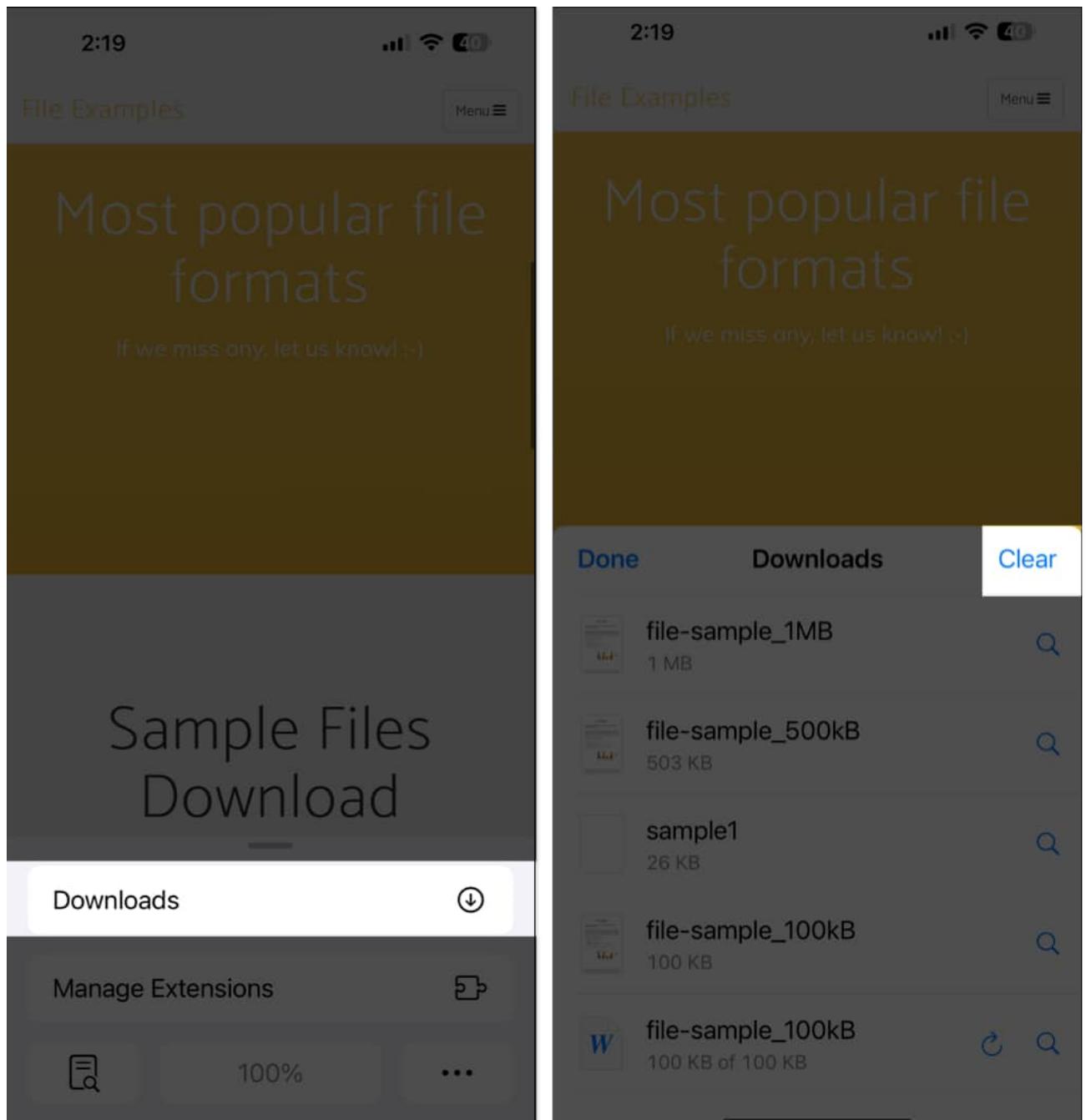
1. Go to **Downloads** in Safari as described earlier.
2. Swipe left on the downloaded file you want to delete.

3. Finally, tap the **Delete** button.



Delete all downloads:

1. Go to the **Downloads** page on Safari.
2. Tap **Clear** in the top-right corner of the **Downloads** page.

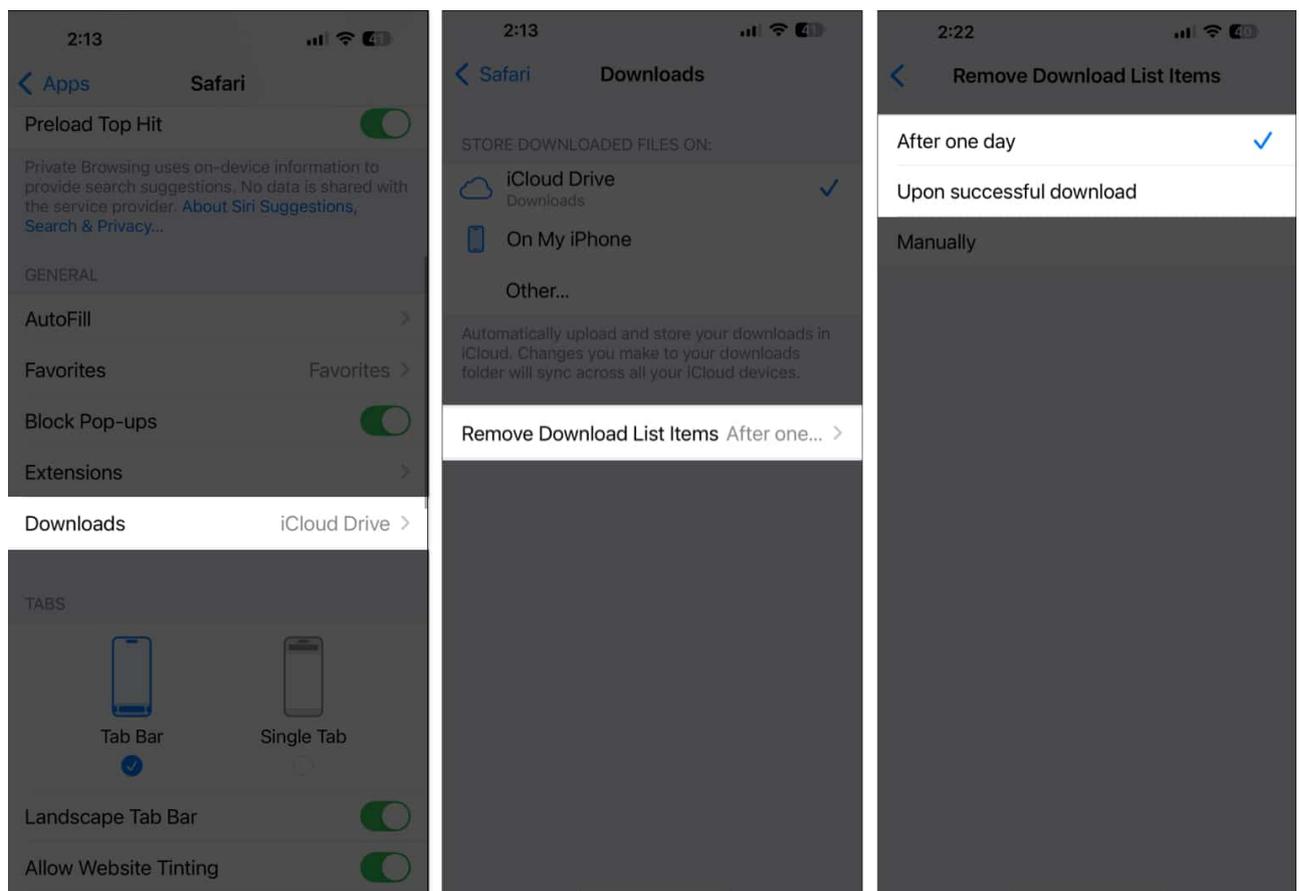


Auto-delete downloads on an iPhone or iPad

Safari has an auto-delete feature that clears downloaded items after a while. Here's how to enable it:

1. Launch the **Settings** app on your iPhone or iPad.

2. Scroll down and select **Apps**.
3. Select **Safari**, then tap **Downloads** under **General**.
4. On the resulting page, tap **Remove Download List Items**.
5. Here, you'll be able to choose to remove Safari downloads between **After One Day**, **Upon Successful Download**, and **Manually**. Select either of the first two options to automatically delete your Safari download list items.



Note

This feature only deletes the downloaded items from your Safari downloads manager and not the actual files on your iPhone or iPad.

How to troubleshoot an issue with your Safari

downloads on an iPhone and iPad

It's possible that your Safari downloads are getting stuck or you're having issues with downloading files via the Safari app on your iPhone or iPad. Here are some ways to fix such issues:

- Ensure you have a stable internet connection.
- Restart Safari.
- Clear Safari cache: This can help fix download issues on the Safari browser. Find more details on [how you can clear Safari cache on iPhone and iPad](#).
- Ensure you have enough storage space in your iPhone or iPad.
- Change the download location.
- Update iOS (and the Safari app) on your iPhone or iPad.

Signing off...

Having discussed how you can manage Safari downloads on iPhone and iPad, I believe you can now easily organize, locate, and delete your Safari downloads.

Also, the troubleshooting tips discussed will be helpful in case you face issues with downloading files on Safari. Let us know if you have any other questions in the comments section.

FAQs

Can I transfer downloads from an iPhone to an iPad?

You can send your downloads from an iPhone to an iPad using Airdrop. However, if you choose to save your downloads on your iCloud Drive, it'll sync across all devices connected to your iCloud including your iPad if it's connected to the iCloud.

Does Safari on iPhone download files in the background?

Yes, Safari on iPhone downloads files in the background.

Do Safari downloads go to iCloud?

Yes, your Safari downloads can go to iCloud, but you have to choose iCloud Drive as your

download location for that.

Read more:

- [How to turn on Reader mode in Safari on an iPhone and iPad](#)
- [Turn off Private Browsing on iPhone: A guide for Safari and Chrome](#)
- [iOS 18: How to use Safari's Distraction Control feature on an iPhone](#)
- [How to use Safari iCloud tabs on iPhone, iPad and Mac](#)