

Between our ever-expanding camera roll, storage-hungry apps & games, messages, files, health data, and other things, our device's storage is bound to exhaust sometimes. So, Apple's wise decision to bring hard drive and SD card support for the iOS device is very beneficial. Thanks to it, you can use an external drive with iPhone and iPad and seamlessly back up your precious data.



- [How to connect an external hard drive to iPhone or iPad](#)
- [How to move Files from iPhone to External Hard Drive](#)
- [Move Files from External Hard Drive to iPad or iPhone](#)

Notably, to support this feature your iOS device should be running on iOS 13 or later. Plus, you should have the right lightning/USB C connector or card reader.

How to connect an external hard drive to iPhone or iPad

1. Connect your **external hard drive** to your iPhone/iPad.
2. Open the **Files app** and tap on **Browse** from the bottom of your screen.
3. Find the **drive name** from the list of locations and tap on it to get your hard drive

connected.

How to move Files from iPhone to external hard drive

1. Open the **Files** app and long press on the folder/file you want to move.
2. Tap on **Move** and select the **External Drive** from the menu.
3. Select the folder if any preference and then tap on **Copy** to confirm the move.

Remember, this action has just copied the file or folder to the drive. You will have to manually delete it from your iPhone/iPad to clear up space.

Move Files from external hard drive to iPhone

1. Launch the **Files** app, open **External Drive** and find your file or folder.
2. Long press the folder/file and tap on **Move**.
3. Next, select the location where you want to save and tap on **Copy**.

Notably, you can also copy the files directly to your iCloud, Dropbox, etc., by selecting these options accordingly.

While iCloud storage is a viable backup option, it could be expensive in comparison. Plus, if you own an external SSD for Mac, all your data can be accumulated in one place. And all you will need is the right data transfer cable!

I hope you enjoyed reading this guide. Feel free to share any related queries in the comment section below.

You may also like to read these:

- [How to free up iCloud storage on iPhone or iPad](#)
- [External hard drive not showing up on Mac? 9 Must-try fixes](#)
- [Best external hard drives for iPad](#)
- [What is System Data on iPhone, and how to clear it](#)