SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Hide Apps On Ipad

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Introduction: Why You Might Need to Hide Apps on iPad

Your iPad is a powerful tool for work, creativity, and entertainment, but it can also become cluttered with apps you rarely use or want to keep private. Whether you share your iPad with family members, need to keep certain apps away from prying eyes, or simply want a cleaner home screen, learning how to hide apps on iPad is a valuable skill. Apple's iPadOS offers several built-in ways to conceal apps — from simple home screen reorganization to more advanced restrictions using Screen Time. This guide covers every effective method, so you can choose the approach that best fits your privacy needs and usage habits.

Hiding apps is not just about secrecy; it can also help you focus by reducing visual distractions, protect sensitive data like banking or health apps, and prevent children from accessing inappropriate content. Below, we explore step-by-step instructions for each technique, along with tips to ensure you don't lose access to your apps when you need them.

Method 1: Remove Apps from Home Screen (Keep Them in App Library)

The simplest way to hide apps on iPad without deleting them is to remove them from the Home Screen and keep them only in the App Library. This is ideal for apps you use infrequently but don't want to uninstall. The app remains fully functional and searchable but out of sight.

1. Touch and hold the app icon you want to hide until a quick actions menu appears.
2. Tap Remove App from the menu.
3. Select Remove from Home Screen. The app is not deleted; it is moved to the App Library.

To access hidden apps later, swipe left on your Home Screen until you reach the **App Library**(the last page). You can also use Spotlight Search by swiping down from the middle of the Home Screen and typing the app name. This method is reversible — you can drag the app back to the Home Screen from the App Library at any time.

Pro tip: You can hide entire pages of apps if you want a minimalist Home Screen. Go to the Home Screen, touch and hold an empty area until apps jiggle, then tap the dots at the bottom. Uncheck the page you want to hide, and tap Done. All apps on that page disappear from view but remain in the App Library.

Method 2: Use Screen Time to Restrict and Hide Apps

Screen Time is one of the most powerful built-in tools for limiting access and hiding apps. It is particularly useful for **parental controls**or for hiding system apps that cannot be removed from the Home Screen. With Screen Time, you can set content and privacy restrictions that effectively remove specific apps from the iPad entirely — they disappear and cannot be opened without a passcode.

Step-by-Step: Hide Apps with Screen Time Restrictions

1. Open Settings and tap Screen Time.
2. If you haven't already, tap Turn On Screen Time and set a passcode (remember it!).
3. Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions and toggle it on.
4. Tap Allowed Apps (or Store Purchases depending on your iOS version).

5. Toggle off (gray) the apps you want to hide — for example, Safari, Camera, or FaceTime.

Once toggled off, these apps vanish from the Home Screen, App Library, and Spotlight Search. They are essentially hidden until you turn them back on. This method is excellent for hiding system apps that normally cannot be deleted. Note that some third-party apps may not appear in this list; for those, use the Home Screen removal method.

Important: If you forget the Screen Time passcode, recovery requires resetting the iPad or using your Apple ID. Keep it in a safe place.

Method 3: Hide Installed Apps from the Purchase History

If you want to hide an app from view in the App Store's **Purchased**list — perhaps because you share an Apple ID with others — you can hide it from your download history. This does not remove the app from your iPad, but it makes it less visible when browsing past purchases.

1. Open the App Store app.
2. Tap your profile icon (top right) and select Purchased.
3. Find the app you want to hide. Swipe left on it and tap Hide.

The app is now removed from your Purchased list. To unhide it later, go to your Apple ID account settings (Settings > your name > Media & Purchases > View Account > Hidden Purchases). This method is purely for privacy when others browse your purchase history; it does not affect the app's presence on your device.

Method 4: Use a Folder to Tuck Apps Out of Sight

While not true "hiding," placing apps inside a deep folder on a far-off Home Screen page can make them nearly invisible. This is a quick organizational trick for those who don't need strict privacy but want to reduce clutter.

1. Press and hold an app icon until the context menu appears, then choose Edit Home Screen.
2. Drag one app onto another to create a folder. Give the folder a nondescript name like "Utilities" or "–".
3. Drag additional apps you want to hide into the folder. You can even put the folder on the last page of your Home Screen, making it less likely to be noticed.

For extra obscurity, you can create a folder inside another folder? Not possible — iPadOS only allows one level of folder nesting. But you can place multiple folders on a single page and swipe to a less visible page. Remember that apps in folders still appear in Spotlight Search, so this method doesn't prevent discovery via search.

Method 5: Use Guided Access to Temporarily Lock a Single App

Guided Access is a feature designed to help users with attention deficits or to lock an iPad to one app during a test or presentation. However, it can also be used to temporarily hide other apps by confining the user to a single open app. When Guided Access is active, the Home button (or swipe gesture) does nothing, and you cannot switch to other apps.

How to set up Guided Access to "hide" other apps

1. Go to Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access and turn it on.
2. Set a passcode (or use Face ID/Touch ID) to end the session.
3. Open the app you want to be the only visible app. Triple-click the side button (or Home button) to start Guided Access.
4. The iPad is now locked to that app. All other apps are effectively hidden because the user cannot exit.

This method is ideal for sharing your iPad with a child or lending it to someone temporarily. To end Guided Access, triple-click again and enter the passcode. Note that this does not permanently hide apps; it's a session-based lock.

Method 6: Delete and Redownload Apps Later

If you want to completely remove an app from your iPad and hide any trace of it, you can delete it. Since all purchases are tied to your Apple ID, you can download it again at any time without paying again. This works well for apps you use seasonally or rarely.

1. Touch and hold the app icon on the Home Screen or App Library.
2. Tap Remove App, then tap Delete App.
3. Confirm deletion. The app and all its data (unless it uses iCloud) are removed.

To get it back, open the App Store, search for the app, and tap the cloud download icon. You won't be charged. Keep in mind that some apps store data locally that will be lost unless backed up. For apps that rely on user-generated content, ensure you have a cloud backup before deleting.

Method 7: Disable App from Search & Siri Suggestions

Even if you remove an app from the Home Screen, it can still appear in Siri search suggestions, Spotlight results, and notification history. To make an app truly hidden from all searches, you can disable its appearance in these areas.

1. Go to Settings > Siri & Search.
2. Scroll down to the app you want to hide and tap it.
3. Toggle off Show App in Search, Show Content in Search, and Suggest App.

After disabling these options, the app will not appear when you swipe down to search on the Home Screen. Combine this with the "Remove from Home Screen" step from Method 1 for a near-total concealment — the app will only exist in the App Library, and even then, it won't show up in search results. This is especially useful for private apps like banking or health logs.

Method 8: Hide Built-in Apps Using Restrictions (iOS 12 and earlier)

For iPads running older versions of iPadOS (prior to iOS 14), you could hide built-in apps through the **Restrictions** menu under Settings > General. While modern versions have moved this feature to Screen Time, the principle remains the same. If you are on an older iPad, you can navigate to Settings > General > Restrictions > Enable Restrictions, then toggle off apps like Safari, Camera, or FaceTime. They will disappear from the Home Screen.

If you've updated to a newer iPadOS, this method is replaced by Screen Time (Method 2). However, if you have a corporate or school-managed iPad with configuration profiles, restrictions may be enforced beyond what you can control in Settings.

Frequently Asked Questions About Hiding Apps on iPad

Can I hide apps from the App Library?

No. The App Library is an integral part of iPadOS and cannot be disabled or hidden. However, you can remove apps from the Home Screen and limit their appearance in Search, making them less accessible. The App Library will always show all installed apps unless you delete them or use Screen Time restrictions.

Will hiding an app delete its data?

Removing an app from the Home Screen does not delete any data. The app remains installed and all its data intact. Deleting the app (Method 6) will remove local data unless the app syncs with iCloud or another cloud service.

Does hiding an app from the App Store purchase history affect anything else?

No. It only removes the app from visibility in your Purchased list. The app stays on your device and you can still re-download it in the future. This is purely a cosmetic change for the purchase view.

Conclusion: Choose the Right Method for Your Needs

Learning how to hide apps on iPad is straightforward once you know the available tools. For casual decluttering, removing apps from the Home Screen and placing them in the App Library is the simplest. For privacy-sensitive apps, combine that with disabling Siri & Search suggestions. If you need parental controls or want to hide system apps, Screen Time restrictions offer the most thorough concealment. Temporary hiding during shared use is best handled by Guided Access. Finally, for apps you truly no longer need, delete them and re-download later if necessary.

Each method has its strengths, and you can mix and match depending on the situation. By mastering these techniques, you can keep your iPad organized, secure, and tailored to your personal or family requirements. Always remember to set a strong Screen Time passcode if you use restrictions, and regularly review which apps are hidden to avoid accidentally forgetting about them. With these skills, you'll have full control over your iPad's app

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