SOFTWARE & TECH

How To Remove Connections On Linkedin

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Why You Might Want to Clean Up Your LinkedIn Network

Your LinkedIn network is not just a collection of names and faces; it is a reflection of your professional brand, your industry reach, and your career aspirations. Over time, it is easy for this network to become cluttered with connections that no longer serve a meaningful purpose. You might have accepted requests from recruiters you never spoke to again, former classmates you have not interacted with in years, or even profiles that have become inactive or spammy. Understanding **how to remove connections on LinkedIn** is a vital skill for maintaining a relevant and high-quality network.

When you take control of your connections list, you are essentially curating your professional community. A leaner, more targeted network can enhance your ability to build genuine relationships, improve the relevance of your news feed, and even make your profile more attractive to potential employers or clients. Furthermore, removing connections can help you manage your privacy settings more effectively, as fewer connections mean fewer eyes on your updates unless you choose to share broadly. Whether you are transitioning into a new industry, preparing for a job search, or simply decluttering your digital presence, learning the proper steps to remove connections is an essential part of LinkedIn housekeeping.

Many professionals hesitate to remove connections for fear of burning bridges or causing offense. However, LinkedIn provides discreet methods for disconnecting that do not notify the other party. This means you can refine your network without awkwardness or negative consequences. The process is straightforward once you know where to look and which options to select. In the following sections, we will walk through the exact steps for desktop and mobile, discuss the implications of your actions, and share best practices for ongoing network maintenance.

Step-by-Step Guide: Removing Connections on Desktop

The desktop version of LinkedIn offers the most comprehensive control over your network settings. If you are looking to remove multiple connections or manage your list in detail, using a computer or laptop is the most efficient approach. Below is a clear, methodical breakdown of the process.

Navigating to Your Connections List

The first step in understanding **how to remove connections on LinkedIn** is knowing where your connections are stored. On the LinkedIn homepage, look for the **My Network** tab located at the top of the screen. Click on it, and you will be taken to a page that shows pending invitations, people you may know, and your existing connections. On the left-hand side of this page, you will see a link that says **Connections** with a number next to it indicating how many people are in your network. Click on this link to reveal a full list of your connections.

This list can be sorted by various criteria such as **First Name**, **Last Name**, or **Recently Added**. Using the **Recently Added** filter can be particularly useful if you have accepted a batch of new requests and want to review them critically. Scroll through the list to find the specific person you wish to disconnect from. If you have a large network, you can also use the search bar at the top of the connections page to locate someone quickly by typing in their name or company.

The Disconnection Process

Once you have located the connection you want to remove, hover your mouse over the **Messaging** button directly below their profile photo or name. A dropdown menu will appear. Among the options, you will see **Remove Connection** written in red text. Click on this option. A pop-up window will then appear asking you to confirm your decision. It will state: *"Are you sure you want to remove [Name] from your connections?"* with two buttons: **Keep** and **Remove**. Click **Remove** to finalize the action.

It is important to note that LinkedIn does not send any notification to the person you have removed. The disconnection is silent. From their perspective, you will simply disappear from their connections list without any alert. This feature reduces the social anxiety associated with pruning your network. However, keep in mind that if you reconnect with the same person in the future, they will not be notified that you previously removed them, but your previous interaction history might still be partially visible.

Removing Multiple Connections on Desktop

For those who want to remove several connections at once, the desktop version makes this surprisingly efficient. Instead of going through each profile one by one, you can use the **Manage** feature. On your connections page, you will see a button labeled **Manage** near the top right corner of the list. Clicking this will add a checkbox next to each connection's name. You can then select multiple individuals by checking the boxes next to their profiles. Once you have made your selections, a **Remove**button will appear at the top of the list. Click it, and LinkedIn will ask you to confirm the removal of all selected connections at once.

This bulk removal tool is a game-changer for anyone looking to do a major network clean-up. However, use it with caution. Once you confirm, all selected connections are removed simultaneously, and there is no undo button. You would need to send a new connection request to each person individually if you change your mind. It is wise to review your selections twice before hitting the final confirmation button.

Removing Connections Using the LinkedIn Mobile App

Managing your network on the go is just as important as using a desktop. The LinkedIn mobile app, available for both iOS and Android, allows you to remove connections with just a few taps. The interface is slightly different from the web version, but the core functionality remains the same. Here is how to do it.

Accessing Connections on Mobile

Open the LinkedIn app on your smartphone and tap on your profile picture or the **Me** icon at the top left corner of the screen. This will open your profile page. Scroll down slightly until you see your **Connections** count. Tap on the number itself or the words **Connections**. This will bring up a list of all your connections, sorted by default in the order they were added.

Similar to the desktop version, you can search for a specific connection by tapping the search icon at the top of the connections list. Type in the name of the person you want to disconnect from. Once you find them, tap on their name to go to their profile page. The mobile app requires you to be on the person's profile to access the removal option, unlike the desktop which offers it directly from the connections list.

The Removal Steps on Mobile

On the profile page of the connection you wish to remove, look for the **More** button (represented by three dots) located near the top right corner of the screen, typically next to the **Message** button. Tap on this button to open a menu of options. Scroll down through the menu until you see **Remove Connection**. It is usually written in red text near the bottom of the list. Tap on it. A confirmation pop-up will appear, asking you to verify your decision. Tap **Remove** to complete the process.

As with the desktop version, no notification is sent to the other person. The removal is instantaneous and discreet. If you are removing multiple people on mobile, the process is more tedious because you must repeat these steps for each individual connection. There is no bulk removal feature on the mobile app at present. For heavy network pruning, the desktop version is highly recommended.

Best Practices for Pruning Your LinkedIn Network

Knowing the technical steps is only half of the equation. A strategic approach to removing connections will ensure you enhance your professional brand rather than accidentally isolating yourself from valuable contacts. Consider the following best practices before you start deleting connections.

Recognize Valuable Connections

Before you remove someone, ask yourself a few questions. Have they interacted with your posts in a meaningful way? Do they work in your industry or a complementary field? Could they provide a referral or a recommendation in the future? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, it might be better to keep them in your network. Even if you do not interact regularly, a connection with a decision-maker at a target company is worth preserving. The goal of learning **how to remove connections on LinkedIn**is not to reduce your count arbitrarily, but to focus on quality over quantity.

Avoid Removing Connections in Large Batches

While the bulk removal tool is convenient, removing hundreds of connections at once can have unintended consequences. LinkedIn's algorithm monitors your behavior. Suddenly removing a large number of connections might flag your account temporarily or reduce your visibility in certain search results. It is safer to prune your network gradually over several days or weeks. Aim to remove a manageable number each session, such as 20 to 50 connections at a time. This gradual approach feels more organic and minimizes any risk of algorithmic penalties.

Consider Alternatives to Removal

Removing a connection is a permanent action. In some cases, you might prefer alternative solutions. For example, if you find someone's posts cluttering your feed but you do not want to sever the connection entirely, you can **unfollow**them. Unfollowing keeps the person in your connections list, but their posts will no longer appear in your news feed. You can also mute someone in your messages without removing them. These options allow you to manage your experience without burning the bridge. Save removal for connections that are truly irrelevant, inactive, or potentially harmful to your professional reputation.

What Happens After You Remove a Connection

Understanding the consequences of removing a connection helps you make informed decisions. First, the person will not be notified. They will simply notice one day that you are no longer in their connections list if they happen to check. Second, any endorsements or recommendations you gave them will be removed, and vice versa. Third, you will no longer be able to message them directly unless you are part of a shared group. Your previous conversation history with that person will remain in your messages folder, but you will not be able to send new messages unless you reconnect.

From a privacy perspective, removing a connection limits their access to your profile updates, posts, and shared content. They will still be able to view your public profile if they search for you, but they will not see content restricted to your network. This is particularly useful if you have connections who were overly active in commenting on your posts or if you want to control who sees your job updates or career changes. The act of removing a

connection is a clean break, but it is executed with discretion in mind.

Common Myths About Removing LinkedIn Connections

There are several misconceptions surrounding the process of removing connections. One common myth is that removing a connection sends them a notification. This is false. LinkedIn designed the removal feature to be as private as possible. Another myth is that your connection count matters more than quality for your profile rank. While a very low connection count can appear odd to recruiters, a network of 500 high-quality, relevant connections is far more valuable than a network of 5000 random people. LinkedIn's algorithm rewards engagement and relevance, not just raw numbers.

Some users also believe that once you remove a connection, you can never reconnect. This is not true. You can send a new connection request to a former connection at any time. However, they will have to accept the request again, and they might be more cautious the second time. If you removed someone due to a disagreement or misunderstanding, it is often better to resolve the issue directly rather than relying on a reconnection request. The digital door is never permanently closed, but it is polite to consider the human element behind the profile.

Tools and Third-Party Apps for Managing Connections

While LinkedIn's native tools are sufficient for most users, some professionals prefer to use third-party applications to manage their networks at scale. Tools like **Dux-Soup**, **Linked Helper**, and **Expandi**offer advanced features such as automated message sequencing, profile visits, and in some cases, bulk connection management. However, extreme caution is required when using third-party tools. LinkedIn has strict terms of service regarding automation, and using unauthorized tools can result in a temporary or permanent ban of your account.

If you choose to use a third-party tool for understanding **how to remove connections on LinkedIn**more efficiently, ensure the tool is compliant with LinkedIn's user agreement. Most reputable tools will allow you to generate a list of connections based on certain criteria, helping you identify which ones to remove manually. Automating the actual removal process is risky. Stick to manual removal using LinkedIn's own interface or use a tool

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