



FESTIVAL OF THRIFT'S FIX IT FORTNIGHT

SMART PHONE QUICK FIXES

We all get to that point when we need a new phone or tablet sometimes its because the device is broken but sometimes it is just that it dosen't work well anymore whereas hardware problems can be be difficult to repair some problems are less complicated to fix.

Maz and Lindsay from Fix It Café share their solutions to some of the problems encountered most often.

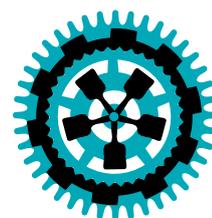
TO START: Restart your phone, can be an easy fix, most phones remain on in standby mode (locked), check for your phones instructions on how to properly restart your phone. This can fix a process that is slowing down your phone.

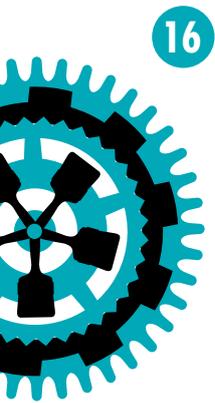
- 1 Try to charge your mobile for an hour. Sometimes performance is deliberately limited to conserve battery.
- 2 A malfunctioning, slow device can often be caused by running out of both storage and memory (RAM). Closing tabs, and stopping virus scanning can temporarily improve performance.
- 3 Deleting unnecessary apps and photos can more permanently improve performance by freeing up memory.
- 4 Problems can also be caused by software upgrades and accumulated leftover file detritus or storage problems associated with build up of cache files. An outdated system or badly configured apps can also make smartphones and tablets less usable. GPS and network problems can also be caused by incorrect settings. All of these can be fixed manually by getting to know the phone or tablet operating system and following Youtube fixes for slow/problem devices. More user friendly (and often free) are cleaner utility programs. Google has a free one for Andoid called Files by Google but Commercial ones like Cleaner are highly rated. For Apple devices programs like Imyphone can help.





- 5 Try a hard reboot (android) force restart (apple) for more serious problems where the phone has become non functioning this will leave you phone/ tablet intact but force the operating system to restart and hopefully reset the device.
- 6 Factory reset will revert the phone to its original settings and get rid of any troubling issues. After a few years of use this can be a good spring clean. Both Apple and Andoid have options to fully backup data and software. But you may have to re-install your software and reimport any photos or data.
- 7 Make sure you have a working charger. Try a cable that is known to work properly (a new or borrowed one) to test the if the cable is at fault. If your phone/tablet charges with new or borrowed charger then that was the problem. Never use a broken or frayed cable; it can be a fire risk.
- 8 Check the charger's output is sufficient. Most smartphones need around 1.5- 2 Amps or 1500- 2000mA. This is embossed or printed on the charger. Tablets may need much more. If your charger is only 0.75A (750mA) then the phone will struggle to charge properly.
- 9 Check the charger works by plugging in a functioning phone or tablet.
- 10 If Cable and charger are OK but your device still doesn't charge check if the charging port is clogged or dirty. It can be cleaned with compressed air, a toothpick or (non-metal) mini tweezers.
- 11 If all this does not work, you can open the device (or have it opened) and measure whether the port works. The port is the hole where the cable enters and by measuring it can be seen whether power can flow to /from it at all.
- 12 Often an internal cable attachment may be loose, so that the power is no longer connected to the correct part.
- 13 With many parts, such as the screen, the problem can lie with such a loose cable. This can cause devices not to work such as camera or microphone or the screen to show strange colours or be blank, or the digitiser (screen) not to respond to touch.
- 14 If a device battery drains quickly, it can mean that the battery is no longer good. Batteries don't last forever – the service life of a battery is specified in 'number of cycles'. Lithium – and nickel-based batteries deliver between 300 and 500 full discharge/ charge cycles before the capacity drops below 80 percent. Capacity will keep dropping over lifespan but they can be looked after to last longer.
- 15 Keeping batteries charged to within 30 to 80 percent range and not using fast chargers or cheap replacement chargers can prolong the battery lifespan. Batteries are often very replaceable, but unfortunately not always without dismantling your device and a bit of soldering.



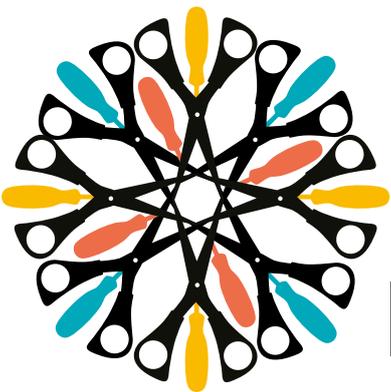
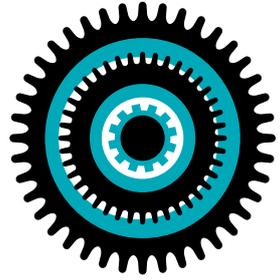


16 Buttons are often skewed or a little loose or stuck. To do this, the device must be opened. Buttons are attached to the system on the inside. To discover how a device works, you can often search via Google, Youtube or iFixit. The latter provides a clear explanation of how to dismantle tablets and smartphones. By searching by brand and model name + disassembly, you can generally find good tips. If securing the old button is unsuccessful, new buttons can be ordered via Ali-Express, or Ebay for example. Search by model + the type of button you are looking for (volume/power/home button). Pay attention to the reputation of the seller.

17 If smartphone or tablet gets wet, remove the device from the liquid as soon as possible. Immediately disconnect the power by turning the unit off and unplugging it from the electrical outlet. If you can remove the battery, do so. Don't try to switch it on to check if it is damaged – this will definitely damage it. Tilt the device so that as much liquid as possible can flow out, with the least amount of liquid flowing through the device. For example, if you have thrown a glass of water over the bottom of your phone, don't hold it upside down (the water will run deeper into it). This prevents greater damage. Then dry the outside with a cloth. Open the device and check the size of the leak. A minor spill can often be resolved by cleaning the surface with a cotton swab and some rubbing alcohol. If it was a sugary or sour drink, like cola or beer you should first clean the surface with soapy water and then with distilled water. Then you can clean it with alcohol on a cotton swab. Let the device dry completely. If you can confidently dismantle the phone then circuits can be dried by dipping in alcohol to displace water (although for some components this might damage them ie screen, microphone or speaker. Any amount of dismantling will help drying. Putting your phone in rice is not a good idea (if rice absorbed water easily then storing it in the kitchen would be a nightmare) Putting the phone in a box of silica gel sachets, on a warm radiator or sucking moisture out with a vacuum cleaner (only suitable for small amounts of moisture unless your Vac is happy with wet and dry) This may take a long time, but if you turn the device on before it is dry, you can cause a short circuit and damage it further.



18 Finally get a case and screen protector it's the best way to prevent scratched and damaged screens and prolong your devices life.



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