

# 5 iPhone Settings Thieves Hope You Never Turn On

Your iPhone holds your bank, your email, your identity. These five settings take 10 minutes and close the most dangerous gaps.

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*A thief only needs to see you type your PIN once. With it, they can change your Apple ID, disable Find My, and drain your bank account in minutes — and these five settings are the only things that stop them.*

## 1

### Turn on Stolen Device Protection

When this is on, sensitive actions — changing your Apple ID password, adding a new Face ID, turning off Find My — require Face ID with no passcode fallback. A thief who has your PIN but not your face is completely locked out.

#### WHERE TO FIND IT (iPhone & Android):

Settings → Face ID & Passcode → enter your passcode → Stolen Device Protection → Turn On

## 2

### Replace your PIN with an alphanumeric passcode

A 6-digit PIN has one million combinations and can be cracked in hours. An alphanumeric passcode — mixing letters and numbers — has billions, and cannot be guessed from someone watching over your shoulder.

#### WHERE TO FIND IT (iPhone & Android):

Settings → Face ID & Passcode → Change Passcode → Passcode Options → Custom Alphanumeric Code → choose a short phrase you will remember

## 3

### Enable Face ID Attention — prevent forced or sleeping unlocks

By default, Face ID can unlock your phone even if your eyes are closed or looking away. Require Attention forces your eyes to be open and looking directly at the screen — so your phone cannot be unlocked while you sleep or are incapacitated.

#### WHERE TO FIND IT (iPhone & Android):

Settings → Face ID & Passcode → enter your passcode → toggle "Require Attention for Face ID" → ON

## 4

### Disable lock screen access to Siri, Control Centre and notifications

From your lock screen, anyone can ask Siri personal questions, use Control Centre to switch on Airplane Mode, and read your notification previews — all without unlocking. Turn these off so your locked screen reveals nothing.

#### WHERE TO FIND IT (iPhone & Android):

Settings → Face ID & Passcode → enter your passcode → "Allow Access When Locked" → turn OFF: Siri, Control Centre, Notification Centre, Reply with Message, Home Control

## 5

### Enable Automatic Updates and Rapid Security Response

Most successful attacks exploit security flaws Apple has already patched — but only on phones that updated. Rapid Security Response pushes critical fixes automatically between full updates, often within hours of a threat being discovered.

#### WHERE TO FIND IT (iPhone & Android):

Settings → General → Software Update → Automatic Updates → turn ON all toggles, including "Security Responses & System Files"

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■ **One more: go to Settings → Privacy & Security → Tracking → turn off "Allow Apps to Request to Track." It takes 10 seconds and stops apps from following you across the internet.**

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