Cleaning up for a faster phone

- **Overview of things that can slow down a smartphone**

- **a.   Restart your phone**

- **b.   Update to current version of system and security**

- **c.   Close unnecessary apps**

- **d.   Turn off background app and location services**

- **e.   Free up space on your phone**

- **f.   Clear the RAM (and explain what RAM is)**

- **g.   All else fails - reset to factory settings**

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- a.   **Restart your phone**
  - **Restarting the phone will clear out many temporary file locations and data. This may remove corrupt data/information on the phone that causes it to slowdown.**
  - **It's actually really simple: when you restart your phone, everything that's in RAM is cleared out. All the fragments of previously running apps are purged, and all currently open apps are killed. When the phone reboots, RAM is basically "cleaned," so you're starting with a fresh slate. (From How-to Geek)**
  [Why Restarting Your Phone Makes it Perform Better and Fixes Common Issues (howtogeek.com)](#)

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b.   Update to current version of system and security

- Here are 7 Reasons to Update Your Cell Phone OS

- 1 New Phone Features With each new OS update comes new phone features. …

- 2 Updated Security As long as there's technology, there will be people trying to hack and steal your information. …

- 3 Continued App Support …

- 4 Updated Cell Phone OS Improves Stability …

- 5 Improved Battery Life …

- 6 Enhanced UX and UI …

- 7 Outdated Phones Degrade Over Time
Top 7 Reasons to Update Your Cell Phone OS - Get That Right

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- **c.   Close unnecessary/unused apps**
  - **If you haven't used apps for a long time, Android optimizes it by:**
  - **Freeing up space by deleting temporary files**
  - **Revoking app permissions**
  - **Stopping the apps from running in the background and sending any notifications**
  - **You can go to Apps >Unused apps to review apps that were unused and have been optimized.**
  - **If you want to exclude any specific app from this feature, go to App Info and then Unused apps and then Pause app activity if unused toggle, then turn this off.**

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- **c.   Close unnecessary/unused apps**
  - **When you OFFLOAD unused apps on your iPhone, the app is deleted, but the saved data from the app remains on your iPhone. For example, if you offload the Netflix app, the app itself will get deleted, but data like your login information will still be there if you reinstall the app.**
  - **If you were to delete the Netflix app rather than offload it, the app itself and its saved data (such as your login information) would be completely erased on your iPhone.**
  - [Offload Unused Apps On iPhone: What It Means & Why You Should! (payetteforward.com)](payetteforward.com)

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- **d.   Turn off background apps**

  - **You've been there: Your iPhone starts acting sluggish, so you double-tap the home button and start swiping up to close out apps running in the background. You may have thought that this helps improve battery life and free up memory, but that's not the case.** [What Happens When You Close iPhone Apps (refinery29.com)](refinery29.com)

  - **Closing Android Apps Doesn't Increase Your Phone's Battery Life It's natural to think that background apps constantly use up your phone's battery. However, those apps are not the cause of your battery drainage and closing them frequently will not increase your phone's battery life.** [Why You Shouldn't Always Close Apps on Your Android Phone (makeuseof.com)](makeuseof.com)

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- e. **Free up space on your phone**

  ✓ **Back up photos and videos to the cloud**

  ✓ **Android: Google Photos/Google Drive, 15GB Free**

  ✓ **iPhone: iCloud, 5 GB Free**

  ✓ **Either: MS OneDrive, Dropbox, Asurion, Amazon, etc.**

  ✓ **Clean up downloaded files, Videos, Movies**

  ✓ **Uninstall or Offload apps.**

  [How to free up storage on your phone — 7 easy tips | Tom's Guide (tomsguide.com)](tomsguide.com)

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f.   Clear the RAM (and explain what RAM is)

✓ **First, the name. You don't really need to know that "RAM" stands for "random access memory." But what you do need to know is that RAM is a super-fast type of storage — faster than your phone's main storage where your apps, photos, videos, and music live — and it helps your smartphone work and feel fast.**

✓ **Your OS "operating system" takes some RAM space.**

✓ **Simply, MORE is better.**

[What Is RAM and Why It Matters on Smartphones (businessinsider.com)](businessinsider.com)

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- g.   All else fails - reset to factory settings

  - **Factory Resetting a device is a very common practice among iOS users. It is a very easy and common way to fix an iOS device that has been bugging you for a while. There are certain things that will happen when you Factory Reset a device, like it will <u>erase all the data</u> and <u>settings</u> from your device. This is a key fact that most people are unaware of, so, it is best to make a backup of the device beforehand. Now after the data gets erased you will be able to start again from where you left off.**

  - [What Does a Factory Reset Do and How to Factory Reset iPhone 13 (tenorshare.com)](tenorshare.com)

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- g. **All else fails - reset to factory settings**

  - **Reset your Android device to factory settings**

  - **To remove all data from your phone, you can reset your phone to factory settings. Factory resets are also called "formatting" or "hard resets."**

  - **Instructions are available on Google Support**
    [Reset your Android device to factory settings - Android Help (google.com)](google.com)