

Customizing the Home Screen to Suit Your Style

The Home screen is your starting point for all things iPhone, and what could be simpler? Just tap the icon you want and the app loads lickety-split. Ah, but things are never so simple, are they? In fact, there are a couple of hairs in the Home screen soup:

- The icons in the top row are a bit easier to find and a bit easier to tap.
- If you have more than 16 icons, they extend onto a second (or third or fourth) Home screen. If the app you want isn't on the main Home screen, you must first flick to the screen that has the app's icon (or tap its dot) and then tap the icon.



Note

How do you end up with more than 16 icons? Easy: the App Store. This is an online retailer solely devoted to apps designed to work with the iPhone's technologies: multi-touch, GPS, the accelerometer, wireless, and more. You can download apps via your cellular network or your Wi-Fi connection, so you can always get apps when you need them. In the Home screen, tap the App Store icon to see what's available.

All this means that you can make the Home screen more efficient by moving your four most-used icons to the top row of the main Home screen, and make sure that any icon you tap frequently appears somewhere on the main Home screen. You can do all this by rearranging the Home screen icons as follows:

1. **Display the Home screen.**
2. **Tap and hold any Home screen icon.** When you see the icons wiggling, release your finger.
3. **Tap and drag the icons into the positions you prefer.**
4. **Press the Home button.** iPhone saves the new icon arrangement.



Note

The icons in the Home screen's menu bar are also fair game. That is, you can drag them left and right to change the order, and you can replace the menu bar icons with any other Home screen icons. For the latter, set the icons jiggling, and then tap and drag an icon off the menu bar to create some space. Now tap and drag any Home screen icon into the menu bar.

Moving unused icons off the main Home screen

The best way to make the main Home screen more manageable is to get rid of any icons you don't use. Not an investor? Get rid of the Stocks icon! No use for arithmetic? Say so long to the Calculator icon! Installed a bunch of apps you use only rarely? Get rid of them, too!

Unfortunately, you can't delete the default iPhone icons, and although you can uninstall any third-party apps, you probably don't want to go that far for any app you still use once in a while. The solution to both problems is to create a new Home screen and move your little-used icons to that screen. That way, your main Home screen holds just your favorite icons, and the ones you use once in a blue moon (or never) are out of the way.

Here are the steps to follow:

1. **In the Home screen, tap and hold any Home screen icon until you see all the icons wiggling.**
2. **For each icon you want off the main Home screen, tap and drag the icon to the right until the new Home screen appears, and then release the icon.**
3. **Press the Home button.** iPhone saves your new icon arrangement.

Adding a Safari Web Clip to the Home screen

Do you have a Web page that you visit all the time? You can set up that page as a bookmark in iPhone's Safari browser, but there's an even faster way to access the page: add it to the Home screen as a Web Clip icon. A *Web Clip* is a link to a page that preserves the page's scroll position and zoom level. For example, suppose a page has a form at the bottom. To use that form, you have to navigate to the page, scroll to the bottom, and then zoom in to the form to see it better. However, you can perform all three actions — navigate, scroll, and zoom — automatically with a Web Clip.

Follow these steps to save a page as a Web Clip icon on the Home screen:

1. **Use your iPhone's Safari browser to navigate to the page you want to save.**
2. **Scroll to the portion of the page you want to see.**
3. **Pinch and spread your fingers over the area you want to zoom in on until you can comfortably read the text.**
4. **Press + at the bottom of the screen.** iPhone displays a list of options.
5. **Tap Add to Home Screen.** iPhone prompts you to edit the Web Clip name, as shown in figure 1.1.