

# Find My... Device How-To

by Mike Sullivan | Cove Apple Club | January 23, 2013

Find My iPhone is a free Apple service that you can use to help you locate any of your lost iOS devices or Mac computers that you set up to work with Find My iPhone.

You can use Find My iPhone to:

- See the locations of your devices on a map
- Lock and track the location of your iOS 6 device using Lost Mode
- Lock your iOS 5 device or Mac computer
- Make your device play a sound
- Erase the information on your device

In order for a device to respond to the Find My... service, it must be:

- Logged into iCloud with the Find My... service activated in Preferences; and...
- Powered on, and either asleep or awake; and...
- In range of a cellular signal (in case of iPhone); or in range of a Wi-Fi network.

Find My... can track and locate any mixture of devices that share the same iCloud login credentials. Alternately, you can use a friend's iOS device, Mac or PC to find your lost device using the Find My.. Web app at [icloud.com/find](http://icloud.com/find).

## Setup on your iPhone / iPad / iPod touch:

1. On your device Home screen, tap Settings, then tap iCloud.
2. If you're asked to sign in, enter your Apple ID, or if you don't have an Apple ID, tap "Get a Free Apple ID," then follow the instructions that appear.
3. Tap to turn on Find My iPhone/iPad/iPod, and when asked to confirm you want this option, tap Allow.

Tip: For added security, set up a passcode that needs to be entered before anyone can access the apps and information on your device (Settings > General > Passcode Lock). You can also turn on Restrictions to prevent anyone else from turning off Find My iPhone (Settings > General > Restrictions).

## Setup on your Mac:

1. On your Mac, choose System Preferences from the Apple menu, then click iCloud.
2. If you're asked to sign in, enter your Apple ID, or if you don't have one, click "Create an Apple ID," then follow the instructions that appear.
3. Select the Find My Mac checkbox, then confirm that you want to allow Find My Mac to use the location of this Mac.

Tip: For added security, make sure your user account requires a password and that automatic login is turned off in Users & Groups preferences. For more information, choose Help > System Preferences Help.

## If you lose your mobile device:

1. On a Mac or PC, use a Web browser to go to [icloud.com/find](http://icloud.com/find). Log in using your iCloud credentials, then click on Devices. Select the device you want to find. iCloud will attempt to locate the device.
2. On another iOS device, install the free Find My iPhone app from the App Store. Tap Find iPhone to launch the app, then log in using your iCloud credentials.
3. If your lost device is located by iCloud, you can:
  - Play a sound to help you find the device if you're close by
  - Put the device into "Lost Mode," or

- Lock and track the lost device, or
- Remotely erase the lost device.

## **Use Lost Mode (iOS 6 devices) or lock your iOS 5 device or Mac**

1. Sign in to [icloud.com/find](http://icloud.com/find) using your Apple ID (the one you use with iCloud).
2. Click Devices, then select the device you want to lock or track.
3. Click Lost Mode (iOS 6 devices, shown below), or Lock (iOS 5 or OS X v10.7.5 or later devices).
4. Follow the onscreen instructions, keeping the following in mind:
5. If you're asked to enter a passcode, type the digits that will be required to unlock and use your device if it's found. For greater security, use random numbers that aren't associated with personal information (for example, don't use the year you were born or your street address). Note: If your iOS device already has a passcode, you're not asked to enter a passcode; the device locks using the existing passcode.
6. If you're asked to enter a phone number, you can enter a number where you can be reached. The number will appear along with your message (if you add one) on the device's locked screen.
7. If you're asked to enter a message, you may want to indicate the device is lost or how to contact you, such as: "This iPhone is lost. If found, please call me." The message will appear on the device's locked screen.
8. If your device is online, it locks and tracking begins (if applicable) immediately, and a confirmation email is sent to your Apple ID email address (the one you use with iCloud). If the device is a Mac, it restarts before it's locked. If the device is offline, the lock and tracking (if applicable) take effect the next time it's online.
9. If you used Lost Mode, you see the device's current location, as well as any changes in its location on the map.

## **Erase your device remotely**

If your device is lost or stolen, you can erase the personal information (such as your contacts, email, and music) and settings on that device to prevent anyone else from seeing or using your information.

**Important:** After you erase the information on an iOS device, you won't be able to use Find My iPhone to locate it or play a sound. You may still be able to use Find My iPhone to locate your Mac after you erase it.

If you erase your iOS device and then find it, you can restore the information on the device using iCloud Backup (if backup was turned on before you erased it) or iTunes. For more information, see the user guide for your device in Safari bookmarks or on the Apple Support website.

1. In a Web browser, sign in to **icloud.com/find** using your Apple ID (the one you use with iCloud).  
If you're already signed in to a different application on [icloud.com](http://icloud.com), click the iCloud button to switch applications.
2. Click Devices, then select the device you want to erase.
3. In the device's Info window, click Erase Device.
4. Do one of the following:
  - To erase an iOS device, enter your Apple ID password, then click Erase.
  - To erase a Mac, enter a passcode that you'll need to use to unlock the device if you find it (to prevent anyone but yourself from using the computer if it's found), then follow the onscreen instructions.  
When asked to type a message, you may want to indicate how to contact you if the device is found. For example, "This Mac is lost. If found, please call me at (yourphonenumber)."
5. If the device is online, the remote erase begins within seconds (if the device is a Mac, it also restarts before it's erased), and a confirmation email is sent to your Apple ID email address (the one you use with iCloud). If the device is offline, the information is erased the next time it's online.

**Note:** If you don't expect to find your iPhone or iPad (Wi-Fi + cellular models), you should contact your wireless service provider to suspend service so you aren't responsible for phone calls or other charges.