

# Use Stolen Device Protection for iPhone HOWTO

Cove Apple Club — February 7, 2024

If a bad guy gets control of your iPhone while it's unlocked (by grabbing it from you in public, or tricking you into unlocking it, then stealing it), you could wind up in a world of hurt.

With your passcode and an unlocked iPhone, a bad guy could:

- Change your Apple ID password, locking you out of your Apple account
- Access your stored passwords in iCloud Keychain
- Turn off Find My for your stolen iPhone
- Enable an Account Recovery Key for your Apple ID, locking you out of your iCloud data **forever**
- ...and more.

Apple has released Stolen Device Protection in iOS 17.3, available now for all iPhones sold in the last 4-5 years. It is turned **off by default**, but you should definitely **turn it on**.

With Stolen Device Protection turned **on**, even if a bad guy **has your iPhone** and **knows your passcode**, with your iPhone in an unfamiliar location, Face ID or Touch ID will be required before they can take certain actions, including the following:

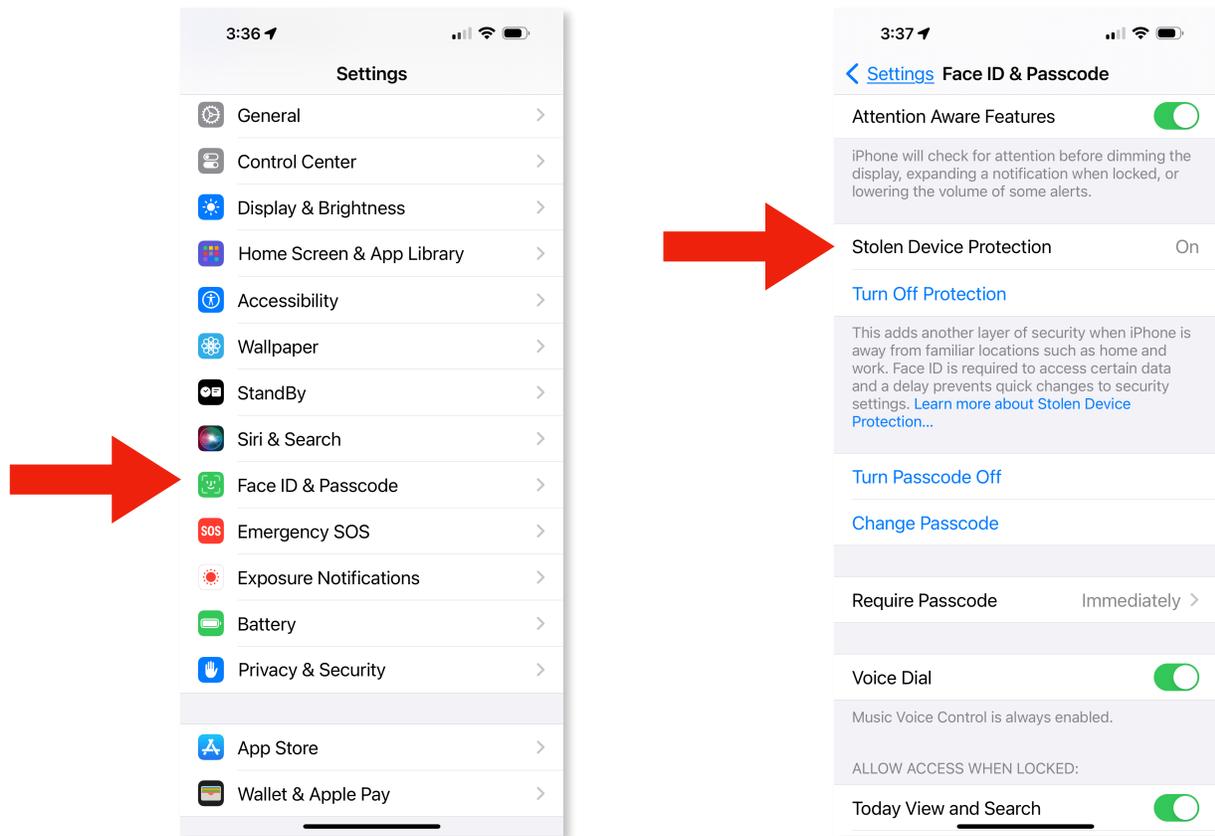
- Use passwords or passkeys saved in iCloud Keychain
- Use payment methods saved in Safari (autofill)
- Turn off Lost Mode
- Erase all content and settings
- Apply for a new Apple Card
- View Apple Card virtual card number
- Take certain Apple Cash and Savings actions in Wallet (for example, Apple Cash or Savings transfers)
- Use your iPhone to set up a new device (for example, Quick Start)

With Stolen Device Protection on, you may also be required to wait an hour before using your iPhone to make changes to critical security settings or your Apple ID. If your iPhone is not in a familiar location, you must authenticate with Face ID or Touch ID, wait for the security delay to end, then authenticate with Face ID or Touch ID again to update settings such as the following:

- Change your Apple ID password
- Sign out of your Apple ID
- Update Apple ID account security settings (such as adding or removing a trusted device, Recovery Key, or Recovery Contact)
- Add or remove Face ID or Touch ID
- Change your iPhone passcode
- Reset All Settings
- Turn off Find My
- Turn off Stolen Device Protection

## To turn Stolen Device Protection on or off:

1. Make sure your iPhone is running iOS 17.3 or later
2. Open Settings
3. Tap Face ID & Passcode or Touch ID & Passcode, depending on your iPhone model
4. Enter your passcode to proceed to the next screen
5. Scroll to Stolen Device Protection, then toggle it on or off



## To learn more about Stolen Device Protection:

- Visit <https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT212510>