

Android Wear is a useful tool for checking notifications and getting quick info without having to actually take out your phone. But it's kind of useless if your watch's battery is dead. Here's how to figure out what's causing your battery is dead. Here's how to figure out what's causing your battery is dead. Here's how to figure out what's causing your battery drain. RELATED: How to Set Up, Tweak, and Use Your Android Wear app on your phone. Once you're there, tap that little cog icon in the top right corner. This menu is a little misleading, because it doesn't actually look like the top option—the one that has the watch's general uses, like the screen and cards. But we're looking for one of the lower options: Watch battery. Give that a tap. It will take a few seconds to load (maybe a bit longer), because the phone actually has to pull the data from the watch. Once everything is up, however, this should look pretty familiar, since it uses the same interface as Android's battery settings. The main difference here is that you can't tap on each entry to get more information or otherwise interact with it. This screen will literally just tell you what's been consuming the battery, just swap it out for something a little cleaner. If it's an app, you can either uninstall it or just force close the app from Android's settings, which should theoretically also kill it on the watch. The Apple Watch is the most popular smartwatch on the market, yet battery life has never been its strong suit. That said, Apple has made improvements in this area with successive models, and while the company still only promises all-day battery life on a single charge, many Series 3 and 4 owners find they can get a lot more. Of course, how long a given Apple Watch lasts between charges depends almost entirely on how it's used. With that in mind, this article aims to help wearers optimize their usage and get the best battery life they can reasonably expect based on their individual needs. Read on for some of our favorite power-saving tips for Apple Watch. Subscribe to the MacRumors YouTube channel for more videos. Apple Watch Display Settings Always on Display feature. With the always on Display feature. With the always on display function enabled, some element of the screen is always lit, even when the wrist is down. It's a handy way to keep an eve on the time or to keep track of a workout without needing to raise a wrist, but there are various reports from users that it can be a significant battery drain, at least on watches running early versions of watch app on iPhone, tap the Watch tab, then tap Display & Brightness and turn off the switch next to Always On. Wake Screen on Wrist Raise It shouldn't come as a surprise that the Apple Watch's OLED display, then try turning off the automatic wake screen feature. To do so, open Settings on your Apple Watch, tap General -> Wake Screen, and toggle off Wake Screen on Wrist Raise. (You can also find this setting in the Watch app on your iPhone.) Theater Mode To some users, turning off the automatic wake screen feature might seem like overkill. Perhaps you only accidentally wake the screen during certain times of the day – when you're in bed, for instance. In that case, you're better off making selective use of the Theater Mode. To enable it, swipe up from the bottom of any clock face to reveal the Control Center, and tap the symbol showing two theater masks. Note that Theater Mode also silences notifications, which is why it's best kept for bedtime or trips to the movies. Adjust Brightness Many Apple Watch owners find that they can easily get along with the OLED display set at its lowest and least energy-sapping brightness, select Settings on your Apple Watch, tap Brightness, select Settings on your iPhone.) OLED panels don't expend energy on displaying true black colors - those pixels simply remain unlit. In other words, the more screen space your chosen clock face takes up (if it displays a photo, say) the more likely it is to drain battery whenever it's activated. For this reason, you might want to consider using a more minimalist watch face and disabling any complications you don't need to see every time you raise your wrist. Apple Watch Apps Apps and Complications Another good reason to minimize your use of complications is that many of them require frequent refreshing in order to display up-to-date information, which is activated with a single long press on the clock face screen. The same goes for third-party apps, many of which frequently refresh in the background whether you use them or not. If you find yourself regularly reaching for your iPhone to check social media, then ask yourself, do you really need that Twitter function on your wrist? Only install apps on your Apple Watch that benefit you by being there. It's worth extending this general policy to clock faces, too. There's anecdotal evidence that uninstalling the ones you don't use can save power by reducing background refreshes. To remove watch faces, open the Watch app on your iPhone, tap Edit next to My Faces, and tap the minus buttons in the list. The Siri watch face in particular is often cited as a battery drainer, so if you don't use it, ditch it. Installation Creep and Refresh Management These days many third-party iOS apps include an Apple Watch component which gets added automatically upon installation. To prevent this default behavior, open the Watch app on your iPhone, select General and toggle off Automatic App Install. Another way of restricting the number of apps that draw power is to selectively control which ones refresh in the background. You can manage this on an individual basis from the Watch app on your iPhone: Select General -> Background App Refresh, and toggle the sliders for each installed app. Remember, only leave this enabled for apps with a functional dependency on up-to-date data, such as weather and calendar apps. Notifications come down to personal preference, but every additional alert on your wrist sucks a bit more power from your watch's battery. Look at your usage and try to assess which notifications are worthwhile, and which ones could just as easily be picked up on your iPhone at a later time. To manage notifications on an app-by-app basis, open the iOS Watch app and select Notifications. Pay particular attention to third-party apps, listed in the second column, and turn off any pointless permissions that mirror your iPhone alerts. With judicious use of these settings, you should be able to recognize if or when your needs change over time. For example, some app notifications have a shelf life – if they start to bug you, turn them off. That includes Activity and Breathe reminders. Be ruthless. When it comes to email alerts, you may find they're only worth the bother if the emails come from specific addresses. So add these to your VIP list in the Mail app, and then disable all watch Mail notifications except for VIP alerts. Other Power-Saving Settings Heart Rate If you're only interested in tracking distance or speed (or both) during running or walking workouts, Apple recommends turning on Power Saving Mode to disable the heart rate sensor. To do this, open the Watch app on your iPhone, go to My Watch -> Workout, and toggle on Power Saving Mode. (The same setting can be found on your Apple Watch in Settings -> General -> Workout.) Note that when the heart rate sensor is off, calorie burn calculations may not be as accurate. If you're training for a marathon or regularly participate in long-duration workouts, consider using a Bluetooth chest strap instead of the built-in heart rate sensor. To connect the Bluetooth chest strap to your watch, make sure it's in pairing mode, then open Settings on your Apple Watch, select Bluetooth, and choose from the list of Health Devices. Hey Siri Like on your Apple Watch allows you to use voice search and control other features without touching the device. Your watch's mic only listens for the magic phrase when the display is activated, but it does use a bit more power. So if you simply don't use the function, turn it off. To do so, open Settings on your Apple Watch, select General -> Siri, and toggle it off. Remember, you can still activate Siri anytime by long-pressing your watch's Crown. Using the same Settings menu above, you can also make Siri respect Silent Mode and Do Not Disturb Theater Mode, mentioned earlier, offers a middle ground between two additional settings: Silent Mode and Do Not Disturb. Silent Mode and Do Not Disturb Theater Mode, mentioned earlier, offers a middle ground between two additional settings: happy to rely on haptic vibrations for alerts, calls, alarms, and timers. With Do Not Disturb enabled, your watch activates the same mode on your Favorites contact list. Some Apple Watch users turn on both Theater Mode and Do Not Disturb when wearing their devices to bed, particularly if they track their sleep using a third-party app like AutoSleep. To turn on Silent Mode on your Apple Watch, swipe up from any clock face to reveal the button with a bell symbol, so that the button turns red and the bell is crossed out. To activate Do Not Disturb from the Control Center, tap the button with a crescent moon so that it turns purple. Haptics and Noise Haptics refers to the subtle physical feedback sensations you get in response to touching the screen or rotating the Crown of your Apple Watch. You can adjust haptic strength on your watch by going to Settings -> Sounds & Haptics. Many users find the lowest haptic setting, which draws the least power, to be perfectly adequate, with or without the Prominent Haptic option turned on. You can disable Crown haptic effects in the same Sound & Haptics menu, via the Crown Haptic switch next to the setting. With watchOS 6, Apple introduced a Noise app that uses the Apple Watch microphone to monitor environmental noise. When enabled, users receive a notification if the decibel level is loud enough to damage your hearing. Whether or not you use the Noise app as a watch face complication, it continuously samples noise levels to give you real-time feedback, and some users have reported noticeable battery drain with the feature enabled. Fortunately, you can disable it in the Watch app by tapping Noise and turning off the switch next to Environmental Sound Measurements. Walkie-Talkie, which allows Apple Watch wearers to send quick voice messages to friends and family members by speaking into their Apple Watch, similar to real Walkie-Talkies. The person on the receiving end of a Walkie-Talkie message hears their Apple Watch beep and then they see a screen that allows them to approve a connection. If you've used Walkie-Talkie then you may have noticed that the first connection attempt takes a few moments, after which voice messages to and fro are pretty much instant. That's because the feature launches a FaceTime session between the conversing parties. After the last interaction, it retains the active two-way connection for a short amount of time in case another message is recorded, and switches off again when none is forthcoming. Anecdotally, people have reported an improvement in battery life with Walkie-Talkie off. You can disable it via the Control Center on your Apple Watch – swipe up on a watch face to reveal it, then tap the Walkie Talkie toggle so that it's no longer yellow. Note that if you turn it off and someone tries to speak to you, they'll see a message that you are unavailable, and you'll receive a notification. Fixing Persistent Battery Issues Bluetooth, Unpairing, and Hard Reset If you've had no luck improving the battery life of your Apple Watch using the above tips, there are still a few steps you can take. It's worth noting at this point that disabling Bluetooth on your iPhone increases the battery drains unusually fast, try a hard reset: Hold down both side buttons for about 10 seconds until the display goes off and the device reboots. In addition, some users have found that unpairing and their Apple Watch from their iPhone can smooth out battery issues, especially after a recent software update. Make sure keep your Apple Watch tab, then tap your watch at the top of the screen. Tap next to the watch that you want to unpair, then tap Unpair Apple Watch. Once that's done, you'll need to set up your Apple Watch again and restore from a backup. If none of the above solutions work for you, it's time to try resetting the watch to Factory Defaults. Reset Apple Watch to Factory Defaults. Reset Apple Watch again and restore from a backup. If none of the above solutions work for you, it's time to try resetting the watch to Factory Defaults. Reset Apple Watch to Factory Defaults. lies at the bottom of the iOS Watch app's General menu.) This action erases everything off your watch, including any media, data, settings, messages, and so on. You'll also need to re-pair the watch with your iPhone after the process is complete, so treat it as a last resort. Note that after a new pairing or update, your watch may take a few days to learn and adapt to your usage, before smoothing out into a more consistent balance between battery life and performance. Check for Software Updates Apple is continually refining its software for Apple watch, and updates to the operating system sometimes. As of writing, the latest version of the Apple Watch operating system is watchOS 6, which can be downloaded for free through the dedicated Watch app on the iPhone by tapping the My Watch tab and going to General -> Software updates, your Apple Watch needs to be in range of your iPhone. Contact Apple Support If none of these tips work, check to see if your Apple Watch is still under warranty. A standard one-year warranty is included with Apple Watch Edition and Hermès models. All warranties include service coverage for a defective battery. If your watch is out of warranty, Apple offers a battery service, although prices may vary depending on where you live.

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