
How To Turn Off Voicemail

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How To Turn Off Voicemail by Sanchez & Dominique*

INTRODUCTION: WHY YOU MIGHT WANT TO DISABLE VOICEMAIL

Voicemail has been a staple of mobile communication for decades, but it's not for everyone. Perhaps you're tired of constantly checking messages, annoyed by robocalls filling up your inbox, or simply prefer text-based

communication like SMS or messaging apps. Maybe you travel internationally and want to avoid roaming charges from people

leaving lengthy messages. Whatever the reason, learning **how to turn off voicemail** can give you back control over your phone's call management. This guide provides clear, step-by-step instructions for the most common carriers and devices. By the end, you'll be able to disable voicemail quickly and understand what happens to your missed calls afterward.

UNDERSTANDING HOW VOICEMAIL WORKS ON YOUR PHONE

Voicemail is a service

provided by your mobile carrier, not your phone manufacturer. When you miss a call, the caller is redirected to your carrier's voicemail system, where they can leave a recorded message. To disable it, you need to either contact your carrier, use a special code, or change settings on your device. The method varies depending on whether you have an iPhone, an Android phone, and which carrier you use. Below, we break down the most reliable approaches.

Carrier-Level vs.

Device-Level Control

Most people mistakenly think voicemail can be turned off in the phone's settings app. In reality, the toggle you see in settings often only disables visual voicemail—not the underlying service. To completely stop callers from being directed to voicemail, you must either deactivate the service with your carrier or redirect unanswered calls to a different number (like a busy signal or an automated announcement). The instructions below cover both scenarios.

VOICEMAIL ON IPHONE

Apple's iPhone uses Visual Voicemail by default, which is tightly integrated with the Phone app. Here's how to disable it effectively.

Method 1: Disable Visual Voicemail in Settings

1. Open the **Settings** app.
2. Scroll down and tap **Phone**.
3. Tap **Call Forwarding** (if available on your

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carrier) – set it to off. This prevents calls from being forwarded to voicemail.

4. Scroll further and tap **Change Voicemail Password**. You can reset it, but this does not turn off the service.
5. If you have a carrier that supports it, you may see a **Voicemail** toggle under Phone settings. Toggle it off. This only disables Visual Voicemail, so callers may still be sent to a basic voicemail system.

Important: This method often does not fully turn off voicemail; it only hides the visual interface. To ensure

callers are not forwarded, use the next method.

message. The service should be disabled.

Method 2: Contact Your Carrier from the iPhone

1. Open the **Phone** app and go to the keypad.
2. Dial the carrier-specific code to disable voicemail (see table below).
3. Press Call. You may hear a confirmation tone or hear a

Alternatively, you can call your carrier's customer service directly through the iPhone and request "disable voicemail" on your line.

HOW TO TURN OFF VOICEMAIL ON ANDROID

Android phones vary by manufacturer and Android version, but the general principles remain the same.

Method 1: Use the Phone

App Settings

1. Open the **Phone** app (the dialer).
2. Tap the three-dot menu (or More) and select **Settings**.
3. Look for **Voicemail** or **Call forwarding**.
4. Tap **Call forwarding** and ensure all forwarding options are disabled, especially "Forward when unanswered" and "Forward when busy."
5. If you find a **Voicemail service** option, you can set it to "Off" or "Your carrier's

voicemail –
disable."

Note: On some Android devices (like Samsung Galaxy), you may also find a **Voicemail settings** under the Samsung Phone app settings. Tap on it and select **Clear voicemail** or **Deactivate**.

Method 2: Dial a Deactivation Code

Just like iPhone, Android can use MMI codes to disable voicemail. Dial the appropriate code for your carrier (see below) and press call. Your voicemail service will be deactivated

immediately.

VOICEMAIL DEACTIVATION CODES FOR MAJOR US CARRIERS

These are standard MMI or feature codes that work on most phones. They directly contact your carrier's system to disable voicemail.

- **Verizon:** Dial ***73** or ***73#** to disable call forwarding (including voicemail). Also, you can dial ***86** to access voicemail and then follow prompts to deactivate, but ***73** is more direct.
- **AT&T:** Dial **##004#** to disable all call forwarding (including voicemail). Alternatively, dial ***73#** (same as Verizon) may work on some AT&T lines.
- **T-Mobile (including former Sprint):** Dial **##61#** to disable voice call forwarding (voicemail). Also, **##004#** works on most GSM lines.
- **Sprint (now on T-Mobile network):** Dial ***73** or **##73#** to deactivate voicemail. You can also log in to your Sprint account and disable via the web.
- **Google Fi:** Open the Fi app, go to Account, then Manage plan,

and toggle off Voicemail. Or dial ***73#**.

Tip: If the code doesn't work, call customer service and ask them to "remove the voicemail feature" from your line. It usually takes effect immediately.

HOW TO TURN OFF VOICEMAIL ON LANDLINES AND VOIP SERVICES

Voicemail isn't limited to mobile phones. If you have a home phone or a VoIP service like Ooma, Vonage, or Google Voice, the steps differ.

Traditional

Landline

For landlines, voicemail is often a separate feature from the phone company. You usually need to call customer service and request removal. Some landline phones allow you to press a "Menu" button and disable "Answering Machine" or "Voicemail" in the settings.

Google Voice

1. Open Google Voice in a web browser or the app.
2. Go to **Settings** (gear icon).
3. Under the **Voicemail** tab, set **Voicemail greeting** to "Do not record"

voicemail" or choose "No greeting - send to missed calls."

4. Alternatively, disable "Screen calls" and set "Call forwarding" to only forward to a number that doesn't go to voicemail.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU TURN OFF VOICEMAIL?

Once voicemail is disabled, callers who reach you when you are unavailable (or if you reject the call) will hear one of the following:

- **Busy signal** (if your line is busy or you are on another call).
- **Standard network message** like "The number you

have dialed is not available" or "Please try again later."

- **Ring indefinitely** until the call is dropped (if no forwarding is set).

You will not be notified of missed calls via voicemail indicator. However, you will still see missed call notifications in your call log. If you want to be able to receive messages again, you can reactivate voicemail by calling your carrier or dialing the appropriate activation code (usually ***86** or ***98**).

PRECAUTIONS BEFORE DISABLING VOICEMAIL

Before you

permanently turn off voicemail, consider these factors:

- **Business or personal necessity:** If you frequently miss important calls, voicemail provides a record. Consider using a transcription service or visual voicemail instead of disabling entirely.
- **Emergency contacts:** Ensure family or work knows you won't receive messages. They might need to text or email.
- **Carrier restrictions:** Some prepaid carriers or phone plans may not allow you to remove

voicemail. In that case, you can set call forwarding to a number that plays a "not in service" message.

- **Privacy:** Without voicemail, you avoid the risk of someone else accessing your messages, but you also lose the ability to retrieve messages from missed calls.

ALTERNATIVE: USING VISUAL VOICEMAIL OR THIRD-PARTY APPS

If you dislike traditional voicemail but still want a way to receive messages, consider these alternatives:

- **Visual Voicemail:** Many carriers offer visual

voicemail apps that display messages as a list, allow you to read

transcriptions, and delete without dialing in. You can keep the service but manage it more efficiently.

- **Google Voice:** Use Google Voice as a secondary number; it transcribes voicemails and emails them to you. You can even set it to only transcribe without ringing your phone.
- **Third-party apps:** Apps like YouMail or HulloMail provide advanced voicemail management and spam

blocking. They replace your carrier's voicemail with a smarter system.

These options give you the benefits of voicemail without the clutter.

STEP-BY-STEP: TURNING OFF VOICEMAIL ON VERIZON (DETAILED EXAMPLE)

Because carrier procedures vary, here's a full walkthrough for Verizon customers, which is one of the most common requests.

1. **Option A: From Your Phone -**
Open the Phone app and dial ***73**. Press Call. You will hear a

confirmation that call forwarding (including voicemail) is disabled. This works for most Verizon lines.

2. **Option B: Visual Voicemail**

Visual Voicemail – If you have an iPhone, go to Settings > Phone > Voicemail and toggle off "Visual Voicemail." On Android, open Phone app settings and turn off visual voicemail. This does not disable basic voicemail, so callers may still be sent to standard voicemail.

3. **Option C: My Verizon**

Account – Log in to my Verizon online or the

app. Go to Account > Manage Plan > Manage Features. Under "Calling Features," you may see "Voicemail." Tap to remove the feature. If not visible, contact customer service via chat or call *611 and ask to deactivate voicemail.

4. **Option D: Call Customer Service**

Service – Dial *611 from your Verizon phone. Tell the representative you want to "disable voicemail on my line permanently." They will do it instantly. Confirm that

callers will get a busy signal or a "not available" message.

from another phone. Make sure you don't hear the voicemail greeting.

After disabling, test by calling your number

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