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## Best flash drives for backing up your iPhone in 2024: USB-C, Lightning and every other storage connection you might need

**Buying Guides** By [Gerald Lynch](#) published March 25, 2024

A flash drive gives you a great way to back up your iPhone.

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Sure, the [best iPhones](#) have more and more storage capacity squeezed into their SSDs. But with higher quality photos, high resolution video capture, and advanced apps and games demanding more and more iPhone storage space, you can quickly fill up even the largest of iPhones.

While [backing up your iPhone to an iCloud account](#) is always advisable, it can prove costly for larger devices and image libraries. And should that account ever become compromised, you may lose out on even your cloud-stored backups. So a local backup to physical media is always a recommended secondary security step — and often the cheapest way to make sure your data is stored off-device somewhere you can trust.

The best flash drives for iPhone offer large capacities for backing up your most important files and photos, have multiple handy connectivity methods, from Lightning ports to USB-C connections, and come in compact form factors to make storing them away a breeze. With fast read and write speeds, the best iPhone USB sticks also tend to get the job done more quickly than web-based uploads, and can come in some funky designs to complement your personal style.

We've been testing USB storage devices for iPhone for years. Whether you've got an older iPhone with a Lightning port or a new [iPhone 15](#), [iPhone 15 Plus](#), [iPhone 15 Pro](#) or [iPhone 15 Pro Max](#) with USB-C connection, there's a cherry-picked iPhone drive for you right here.

### BEST FLASH DRIVES TO BACK UP YOUR IPHONE

#### BEST OVERALL



1. SanDisk 256GB Ultra Dual Drive Go USB Type-C

[View at Amazon](#)

A simple plug-and-play drive offering USB-C and USB-A connections with USB 3.1 speeds and SanDisk's seal of quality, the Ultra Drive Go series is our top-pick when it comes to iPhone flash drives. With bold color shells and 400MB/s transfer speeds, it'll get your iPhone backed up in no time. It's available in sizes between 32GB and 1TB, in a whole host of snazzy colors. We've picked out the 256GB option here for the balance between storage size and price. No Lightning port here though, so one for iPhone 15 (or newer) device owners.

#### BEST FOR LARGE CAPACITY



2. PioData iXflash 1TB MFi Certified Flash Pen Drive

[View at Amazon](#)

If you've got a large-capacity Lightning iPhone that you want to back up to a new USB-C iPhone, this giant 1TB drive from PioData could be the one for you. It's going to cost you to get so much storage space in such a tiny drive, but with both Lightning and USB-C connections either end of the drive you'll be able to backup your device across generations without a hitch, and have room to spare for all new files, too. It's available in smaller capacities as well, if you don't need the full 1TB. We've been testing the 256GB version and came away impressed by its reliability, speed and useful dedicated backup app.

#### BEST FOR LIGHTNING PORT IPHONES



3. iDiskk (MFi Certified by Apple) 128 GB Photo Stick

[Check Amazon](#)

The iDiskk MFi-certified flash drive is an excellent option whether you're looking to transfer movies and photos or simply keen to free up space on your iPhone. Designed with a durable aluminum build, it includes a free app that supports shooting photos and videos before instantly saving them straight to your flash drive.

## Find the best flash drive for your iPhone

You can **always trust iMore**. Our team of Apple experts have years of experience testing all kinds of tech and gadgets, so you can be sure our recommendations and criticisms are accurate and helpful. [Find out more about how we test.](#)

While some users might still prefer to rely solely on [iCloud](#), there's never any harm in also using physical storage such as a flash drive with your iPhone to keep its files safely backed up. You could always AirDrop files to your Mac once you run out of space, but sometimes AirDrop has a tough time with bigger files or many files at once. Similarly, you could use one of the [best cloud storage apps](#) to store your files off device, but that can take a while depending on internet speeds, and usually requires an ongoing subscription cost to keep the service ticking.

For a physical solution, we're fans of the SanDisk 256GB Ultra Dual Drive Go USB Type-C because of its fair price, and compact, colorful design.

If you need to multitask with many types of device, or have a ton of data to back up, we'd suggest the PioData iXFlash series. With a Lightning port on one end and a USB-C connection on the other, you'll easily be able to move entire generations of iPhone back-up files from older devices to another — capacities of 1TB mean only the very, very largest iPhones can't be backed up in full. It's a great — if pricey — option.

If you're worried about longevity -- don't be. Reports suggest that the average flash drive for an iPhone can last from 10,000 to 100,000 write cycles. That means you won't have to worry about replacing it for a while to come.

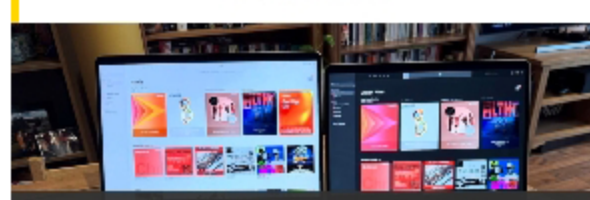
## Does my iPhone 15 need a Lightning drive?

No, you've got a USB-C port! That means you can plug in any normal USB-C storage drive, and use an iPhone's Files app to move around any data or images that you'd like between the stick and the phone with ease. Note that many of our choices above come with their own apps to make the backup process easier — but you can do everything yourself with Apple's own tools.

## Which iPhones need Lightning drives?

From the iPhone 14 and below, Apple still used the Lightning connector. That means you need a drive with Apple's proprietary port to be able to move your data to devices from those handsets. Thankfully, many of the above drives have multiple connectivity inputs, meaning that if you eventually upgrade to a different iPhone device, you'll still be able to use the drive with newer devices, plus computers, tablets and any other device that makes use of USB-A or USB-C connections.

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