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Android how to recover deleted text messages

You never get used to that gut-wrenching moment when one realizes a very important SMS message or thread has just been deleted. What do you do now? Desperate users will go through anything to save those crucial messages if the trashed information is important enough. Recovering deleted messages is no easy feat, but jumping some hoops will definitely get you somewhere. There are some chances you can get those precious text messages back, and we can help you get to them!Did you ever hear people say that files don't necessarily disappear from your computer when you delete them? This is definitely true. All those files are hidden somewhere in the hard drive, waiting to be retrieved... or replaced. This is exactly what happens with Android phones as well. Everything we delete, including SMS messages, sticks around until enough time passes by and/or the space is needed to store other data. A little about how deletion works You may still be wondering how this is even possible. It's actually not a very complicated concept once we understand how deletion works. In most cases, trashing a file (in this case an SMS or MMS message) doesn't really erase it from the system; or at least it doesn't do it right away.Your device will simply mark this file as inactive. In other words, it is made invisible and replaceable. As you continue using your device and adding new files, these start replacing "deleted" content. In other words, it is best that you stop using your phone if you really need to recover that text message, because it may get permanently wiped out after some time. Carriers often have all your texts stored This is not necessarily a solution, but it is still information that may be helpful in some cases. As it turns out, many wireless providers store your text messaging records and other data for extended periods of time (here is a chart with carrier data retention periods). The only problem is they will likely not release that information to you simply because you accidentally deleted something.However, some carriers may cooperate with the police if necessary. These companies have also been known to help users facing legal complications, as these messages could serve as evidence in a court of law. This won't help most of us, though, so let's move on to what you can do to actually obtain results. So it's all lost and you really, really want that text message. It may be possible to obtain it by using data recovery software, which can scan your phone for "deleted" content and retrieve whatever may still be in existence.After you have the software, the process is pretty straight forward. Just install the program on your PC and run it. The only trick is that you will need to turn USB Debugging on. This option is under Developer Tools, in your Android Settings app.Each software has its own specific steps. Some will require you to use an Android app to load everything to the computer, while other services can have the PC software do all the heavy lifting. Just make sure you follow instructions for your specific program.After you let the program do its thing, you should be presented with all the files you can recover. Making sure this doesn't happen again You just realized this whole retrieving deleted text messages isn't exactly an easy feat. And it shouldn't really be... you just got rid of the darn thing! You just happen to be lucky computing devices work a certain way. Regardless, the best way to solve something is to prevent it. There's many apps that can help you backup your text messages, as well as other content. Let's take a look at some of them.This is among the most popular backup apps of its kind, with over 5 million downloads and a 4.5-star rating. And it's no wonder the service managed to get such a good reputation - it is free to download and happens to have a pretty full set of features.For starters, this application can store your text messages in XML format. It's also very convenient that the software can save your data both locally and in the cloud. It supports Email, Google Drive and Dropbox (through an add-on app). To make matters even more exciting, users can even schedule automatic updates, making sure you don't forget to store your SMS messages manually.Need something that covers a bit more than SMS messages? Easy Backup & Restore does very well for being a free app. This is a full-fledged backup solution that can store your SMS, MMS, call logs, calendar, bookmarks, dictionary contacts and apps.It also happens to support SD cards, Gmail, Google Drive, Dropbox, Box and even OneDrive. And yes, you can also schedule your automatic updates. And if you have root access, Easy Backup & Restore can also handle apps and app data. Conclusion Sadly, there's not much else we can do, unless you want to pay very hefty amounts of cash to data specialists so they can take your phone into a lab and dissect it. These tips should keep you pretty well covered, though. Just be sure to be a bit more careful next time, and use the preventive applications we told you about!Don't head out just yet! Join the conversation and let us know if you have ever needed to recover a deleted message (or any other file). How did you solve this issue? Have you used any of the above-mentioned methods before? Digital Trends may earn a commission when you buy through links on our site. For smartphone users, the camera has become almost a reflex: You see something noteworthy, you capture a snap, and you'll preserve that memory forever. But what if that particular snap isn't worth forever? While paper snapshots are notoriously hard to part with in the hand, digital files in your Android gallery are a lot easier to discard. That said, mistakes happen, and you could change your mind about a picture or video you too quickly threw out. We show you have to delete photos from your Android phone and to recover them if you change your mind. The example below is in Android 10. While Android phones may differ depending on the operating system and manufacturer, the methods described should be fairly similar. Got an iPhone? You can do the same thing. See our guide on how to delete and recover photos from your iPhone. Delete photos from the Gallery app Almost all Android phones have a Gallery app that stores photos, videos, and screenshots taken with the smartphone camera, and images from other sources that you have downloaded from websites or saved from email or text messages. From the Gallery, you can remove one image or many images simultaneously. Here's how. Tap to launch the Gallery app. Tap the Photos button to access all of your photos. Tap the Trash can icon at the top. Select all the images you want to throw away by tapping the circles at the upper left of each picture. The selects will show a checkmark. Tap the Delete button at the bottom of the window. You may get an alert asking if you're sure you want to delete these images. Tap Delete again. Your images will then move to the Trash and after seven days they will be permanently deleted. To permanently delete these images immediately tap the three-dot icon at the upper right and tap Trash. In the Trash, tap the three-dot icon again and tap Empty Trash or tap the album icon to open the album and tap the trash can with the X in it to select the pictures you want to remove immediately. Tap Delete at the bottom of the screen. A dialog will appear to ask if you're sure. Tap Delete again and they are gone forever. Restore deleted photos from the Gallery app But wait just a minute! What if you deleted something by mistake? No worries. You can easily retrieve and restore it to the gallery. Here's how. Tap the three-dot icon at the upper right. Tap Trash to see the album containing the images you deleted. Tap to open the album. Tap the Restore icon. Tap any image you want to save or Select all. Tap Restore. Delete photos from Google Photos Google Photos is a five-year-old photo sharing and storage service that stores photos up to 16 MP and videos up to 1080p. The service is free and unlimited until June 1, 2021. In November 2020, Google announced that it will end its free unlimited storage for "high quality" or "express quality" photos starting on June 1, 2021. Existing photos are not affected, but new photos uploaded after that date will count against the free 15GB storage quota spread among Google Drive, Gmail, and Google Photos. Here's how to delete photos from the Google service. The same method works for both individual photos and albums. Launch Google Photos. Scroll to choose a photo you want to delete. Tap the Trash icon at the bottom right of the screen. A dialog appears asking if you want to remove the picture from your Google account. Tap Move to Trash. If you make a mistake, you can tap Undo right there. To access the trash, tap Library at the lower right of the screen. Tap the Trash button and it will show all pictures in the trash, which will be permanently deleted after 60 days. Beware: If you are using Google Photos as a backup in the cloud, or your Android phone comes with only Google Photos, do not use it to delete photos from your phone because that action will also delete your online backup. Make sure you are using the Gallery app on your phone (instructions above) or another third-party app like QuickPic Gallery Dark or Gallery to get rid of photos you want to keep in the Google cloud but not on your handset. Restore deleted photos from Google Photos In the Trash screen, tap the Select button at the top right. Tap any or all images to select them. Tap Restore. An alert asks if you want to restore the images. Tap Restore. Recovering photos using third-party software You always have the option of using a third-party software to retrieve erased images. Wondershare's Dr.Fone and iMobie's Phone Rescue for Android are only two examples of recovery software that's available to the public. Wondershare Dr.Fone Wondershare Dr.Fone Data Recovery (Android) enables the retrieval of your pictures and a variety of other media data from your Android handset. It provides a suite of rescue and repair devices that lets you recover data from broken or damaged machines and retrieve data lost during any updates. Wondershare iMobie PhoneRescue for Android iMobie PhoneRescue for Android allows you to take control of your photo gallery as well as your music, contacts, text messages, and other essential files, giving you the ability to retrieve them quickly (and, of course, have the peace of mind knowing you haven't lost anything). iMobie PhoneRescue for Android lets you preview and choose your removed images, so you can select only the ones you'd like to restore. This convenient software is compatible with all Android devices, such as Samsung, Sony, LG, Google, Huawei, Motorola, and HTC. iMobie Editors' Recommendations Deleting text messages is usually a straightforward affair, but some people may be confused about (or unaware of) the different ways you can select and delete text messages on an Android device. This guide shows you how. The following instructions cover Google's Android Messages app and the stock app that comes preinstalled on Samsung phones. We also show how to delete SMS messages in Facebook Messenger if you set it as your default. All instructions listed below show how to delete single and multiple messages. However, if you accidentally deleted the wrong message(s), we suggest a few tools to get them back. Delete an individual text message Android Messages This applies to Google's Messages app. The icon has lines in a conversation bubble. Step 1: Tap to open Messages. Step 2: Tap and hold on the message you want to be deleted. Tap the X in the top left corner if you marked the wrong message, or tap the message to deselect. Step 3: Tap the trash icon located in the top right corner. Step 4: Tap Delete in the pop-up window to confirm. Samsung Messages This applies to Samsung's stock Messages app installed on its phones. The icon has dots in a conversation bubble. Step 1: Tap to open Messages. Step 2: Tap and hold on the message you want to be deleted. Tap it again to deselect it if you marked the wrong message. Step 3: Tap Delete located on the slide-up menu located at the bottom. Step 4: Tap Delete in the pop-up window to confirm. Facebook Messenger If you're using Facebook's app as your default SMS client, you can filter out your private messages by tapping the SMS button in the app's search bar, leaving only SMS messages visible. Tap it again to add Facebook messages back to the list. Step 1: Tap to open Facebook Messenger. Step 2: Tap and hold on the message you want to be deleted. Step 3: Tap Delete listed on the pop-up menu. Unfortunately, there's no way to delete multiple messages at once from within the Messenger app. Delete multiple messages at once Android Messages This applies to Google's Messages app. The icon has lines in a conversation bubble. Step 1: Tap to open Messages. Step 2: Tap and hold on the first message you want to delete. A checkmark should appear to its left. Step 3: Tap on all other messages you want to be deleted. Step 4: Tap on the trash icon located at the top to delete them all. Step 5: Tap Delete in the pop-up window to confirm. Samsung Messages This applies to Samsung's stock Messages app installed on its phones. The icon has dots in a conversation bubble. Step 1: Tap to open Messages. Step 2: Tap and hold on the first message you want to delete. A checkmark should appear to its left. Step 3: Tap on all other messages you want to be deleted. Step 4: Tap Delete located on the slide-up menu located at the bottom. Step 5: Tap Delete in the pop-up window to confirm. Recovering text messages If you accidentally deleted texts and need to restore them, immediately put the Android device into Airplane mode. This prevents further changes to your local data, in this case, your phone overwriting "deleted" texts with new ones. After that, you have two options. Use Google Drive One way to restore deleted messages is to reset the phone to its factory defaults and then restore it with a backup saved on Google Drive. However, you need to check this backup first and make sure it wasn't saved after you deleted the texts. If it was saved after the deletion, there's no reason to take this route. If you haven't backed up to Google Drive, skip this section altogether. Step 1: Tap to open Google Drive. Step 2: Tap the three-lined "hamburger" icon located in the top left corner. Step 3: Tap Backups listed on the roll-out menu. Step 4: Tap the Backup listed under This Device. On this screen, you should see an SMS entry. If it's dated before you deleted the texts, then you can use it to restore your deleted texts. This is an extreme option, however, but the only one outside using third-party software. Use third-party software Here are a few suggestions that work well in retrieving deleted texts. Android Data Recovery (\$50) This is one of the more popular tools in recovering data from an Android phone, including text messages. Available for Windows 10 and MacOS, this desktop software will scan all deleted items and present a list of data you can pick and choose to recover. It even retrieves deleted photos, videos, messages, and photos delivered through WhatsApp. Android Data Recovery (\$50) This is one of the more popular tools in recovering data from an Android phone, including text messages. Available for Windows 10 and MacOS, this desktop software will scan all deleted items and present a list of data you can pick and choose to recover. It even retrieves deleted photos, videos, messages, and photos delivered through WhatsApp. Android Recovery Wondershare Dr.Fone (\$70+) This restoration tool supports the most modern Android devices. You can also download and install the application on both MacOS and Windows-based devices. This program will enable you to promptly retrieve text messages, images, videos, and even information from third-party apps like WhatsApp and others. In addition, it can help you to collect lost files from your device, resulting from a system failure, rooting error, and many more unfortunate situations. Wondershare FonePaw (\$49+) This specific software will allow you to recover information from machines operating on the latest version of Android, all the way back to the ancient Android 2.1. It's compatible with all the most popular brands and will also assist you in recovering many different types of data, from text messages and contacts to images, media, and documents. It can even retrieve WhatsApp data. The restoration consists of internal storage, as well as SD cards and SIM cards. Fonepaw SMS Backup & Restore (Free) To protect your text messages and make sure they're secure, you must have an application that produces backups of your texts. If you regularly create backups, then you're one of the fortunate ones. This application will allow you to save texts and call records. It runs on devices with the Android 4.0.3 version or above and is extremely easy to use, permitting you to back up to Google Drive or Dropbox. Google Play Store Editors' Recommendations

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