



Plan Ahead for Phase Out of 3G Cellular Networks and Service

You have likely seen the ads offering the latest 5G mobile services and devices. But what does that mean for 4G and 3G devices?

If your mobile device is more than a few years old, it may be one of the [43.7 million](#) that are only able to use 3G service. If so, you may need to upgrade your device if your mobile provider plans to shut down its 3G network. Providers are expected to maintain their 4G networks as they invest in 5G deployment, so your 4G devices should continue to work.

Plans and timing to phase out 3G services will vary by company. Contact your mobile provider directly for more information. Upgrading to a newer device is usually all you will need to stay connected.

Keep in mind that phones are not the only devices that rely on cellular connections. Tablets, home security systems, medical devices, and other connected products may be using 3G network services. And don't forget about devices that use cellular connectivity as a back-up when a wired internet connection goes down. If the device is not labeled, contact the monitoring company or other service provider to confirm how the device connects.

More Information About 5G

To learn more about 5G, visit our [FAQs page](#).

For more on the FCC's 5G strategy, including video of Chairman Pai discussing the Commission's plans, visit the FCC's [5G FAST Plan](#) page.

Alternate formats

To request this article in an alternate format - braille, large print, Word or text document or audio - write or call us at the address or phone number at the bottom of the page, or send an email to fcc504@fcc.gov.

Last Reviewed: 10/21/20

