

Why Is My AirDrop Not Working? 9 Steps to Fix

You try to send a file using AirDrop. But nothing shows up. Or it keeps saying “waiting.” That’s a frustrating situation for you.

Don’t worry. Let’s fix it in simple steps of [Why Is My AirDrop Not Working](#).



1. Check If Your Device Has AirDrop

Not all Apple devices support AirDrop.

Make sure you use:

- iPhone with iOS 7 or later
- iPad with iOS 7 or later
- Mac from 2012 or newer

You must note that the older device that you are accessing may prevent AirDrop from working.

2. Turn On Wi-Fi and Bluetooth

AirDrop needs Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. If either is off, AirDrop won’t work.

On iPhone or iPad:

- Swipe down from the top right
- Make sure Wi-Fi and Bluetooth are both blue

On Mac:

- Look at the top bar
- You have to open your Wi-Fi and Bluetooth

3. Keep Devices Close

AirDrop only works when devices are near. Stay within 30 feet. Avoid walls or other barriers. If you are not near the device, then it won't connect.

4. Change AirDrop Settings

AirDrop has three options:

- Receiving Off
- Contacts Only
- Everyone

If your setting is "Contacts Only" and the other person isn't saved in your contacts, it won't show their name.

Set it to "Everyone for 10 minutes."

On iPhone or iPad:

- Open Control Center
- Press and hold the Wi-Fi box
- Tap AirDrop
- Choose "Everyone for 10 minutes."

On Mac:

- Open Finder
- Click AirDrop
- Choose "Everyone" from the dropdown

5. Restart Your Devices

If it worked before but not now, then you can try restarting your device.

Turn both devices off. Wait a few seconds. Turn them on again. Try AirDrop again.

6. Turn Off Personal Hotspot

If your hotspot is on, AirDrop won't work.

On iPhone:

- Go to Settings
- Tap Personal Hotspot
- Switch it off

Now try AirDrop again.

7. Turn Off VPN

A VPN can block AirDrop. If you use a VPN app, turn it off.

Then try sending your file again.

8. Use AirDrop Directly

Instead of just tapping share, open AirDrop first.

On iPhone:

- Go to your photo or file
- Tap Share
- Tap AirDrop
- Wait for the device to appear
- Tap the name

On Mac:

- Open Finder
- Click AirDrop
- Drag your file onto the other device's icon

9. Still Not Working?

If your issue is still persisting, let's update the device with the latest version. Sometimes, a bug blocks AirDrop, and a new update fixes it.

For this, reach the device's settings and navigate to the General option. After that, you can click on the Software Update option.

Additionally, you can opt the another option to sign out of your iCloud account.

Conclusion

If your friend says, “[Why is my AirDrop not working?](#)”—now you can help!

Just follow these steps. AirDrop should start working again. No tech skills needed. Just simple fixes that work.