

How to Fix iMessage Not Syncing Between iPad and iPhone

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Quick answer

If you're deep in the Apple ecosystem, you already know how well these devices play together. Using multiple Apple products side by side genuinely does make day-to-day tasks easier, and once you get used to that kind of continuity, going back feels unthinkable.

If you're deep in the Apple ecosystem, you already know how well these devices play together. Using multiple Apple products side by side genuinely does make day-to-day tasks easier, and once you get used to that kind of continuity, going back feels unthinkable. But there's one hiccup that trips up a surprising number of users: iPad and iPhone messages not syncing through iMessage.

Apple's iCloud integration is built to keep everything in step across your devices. Even smaller touches, like the universal clipboard, show how much thought went into this. Copy something on your iPhone, and you can paste it on your Mac or iPad almost instantly. It's one of those features you don't appreciate until it stops working.

The same logic applies to iMessage. In theory, any message you send or receive on your iPhone should show up on your iPad without you lifting a finger. In practice, that doesn't always happen, especially with a new iPad fresh out of the box.

iMessage Not Syncing on iPad

This is one of the more common complaints among iPad users: messages that appear fine on the iPhone simply won't show up on the iPad. In this article, we're going to walk through exactly how to fix the iMessage Not Syncing issue on iPad. The good news is, it's usually down to a couple of settings that are easy to miss, particularly when you're setting up a device for the first time.

Before anything else, confirm that both your iPhone and iPad are signed into the same Apple ID. This is the most basic requirement, and it's the first thing to rule out.

Once you've verified that, here's what to do:

Step 1: Open the Settings app on your iPhone and tap on your profile icon at the top. Step 2: From the Apple ID page, tap on iCloud. Step 3: Scroll down and look for the Messages toggle. If it's off, switch it on. This is what allows your iMessages to actually back up and sync through your iCloud account, without it, nothing will carry over to your other devices. Step 4: Head back to the main Settings screen on your iPhone. Step 5: Scroll down and tap on Messages. Step 6: Tap on Text Message Forwarding. Step 7: You'll see a list of all the Apple devices tied to your account. Step 8: Text message forwarding is often turned off by default for newer devices, which is exactly why your iPad isn't getting messages. Toggle it on for your iPad, and any other devices you want included.

After that, give it a few minutes. The first sync can take a bit of time depending on how many messages you have backed up. Once it's done though, things should stay in sync automatically. You'll also start getting notifications on all your devices whenever a new SMS or iMessage comes in , just like it should work.

And if you're curious why this requires signing in with the same Apple ID on every device , that shared account is essentially the thread that ties all of this together. Without it, your devices have no way of knowing they belong to the same person.

Always Connect iPad With WiFi

One more thing worth keeping in mind , if you have a WiFi-only iPad, it needs to be connected to a network for iMessage syncing to work. That's easy to overlook, but a dropped or missing WiFi connection will stop messages from coming through entirely. Keep your connection stable and you should be good to go.