## BURNER CELL PHONES

WHO, WHAT, WHERE AND WHY

## What is a burner phone?

A burner phone, also sometimes called a "burn phone," is when someone purchases a cellphone that they don't intend to use for a long period of time. The buyer will typically get a prepaid phone with credit loaded onto it, which they can dispose of whenever they please without worrying about ongoing contracts.

When someone shops for a burner phone, they usually look for the cheapest deal that offers the absolute basics. Phones with 4G and touchscreens are great, but these features tend to hike up the price and offer nothing special to a burner phone.

As a result, burner phones are usually cellphones that look like models from the early 2000s; as long as it can make calls and receive texts, it's perfect for the job.

## What is difference between a Burner phone and a Prepaid phone

- Cheap
- Limited use
- No frills
- Throwaway
- Costs more
- Keep for a long time
- Usually a smart phone as well
- Buy minutes as you need them or for a year at a time
- Not practical as a fulltime business phone


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- TOSS IT WHEN YOU DON'T NEED IT ANY MORE (or keep in glove box for 911 calls only)
- CHEAP, CHEAP, CHEAP (\$20.00 and UP)


## Use as a backup

Does the concept of hiking up a mountain with an expensive iPhone or Samsung in your pocket make you feel uneasy? Do you want a phone on your person during your boating trip, but hate to imagine what would happen if you capsized?

Leave your expensive phone at home and grab a cheap burner phone that you can bring along on your adventures. That way, if it does fall down a ravine or end up submerged, you can replace it without denting your bank account.

## Just Moved?

- Great if you have just moved from out of state and want a local phone number to give out
- This way you can keep your old phone number for friends and family or business calls from your old address


## Protect your privacy (and yourself)

While you might think a "burner phone" is something only a criminal may use to avoid being tracked by authorities, law-abiding citizens may also appreciate the privacy awarded by a burner phone.

For example, you might not want to use your main phone number if you're posting items on Craigslist or another classifieds site. After all, you're opening up the possibility of unwanted calls or texts from strangers on your personal line. Instead, when the transactions are completed, you can simply stop using (or "burn") the temporary phone.

## Protect yourself from phone theft

A burner phone is a great idea if you think someone might steal, break, or go through your phone. That way, if someone does seize your phone, all you lose is a cheap phone with no information on it.

For example, if you're planning to go somewhere a little rough, you could use a burner phone. It makes your phone less appealing to steal, and if someone does take it, you lose very little.

## Safety First

You found someone you like the look of and you want to go a step further, but you're worried about giving over your phone number. After all, what if this person turns out to be toxic and uses your number to stalk or harass you?

## Use during a rally or protest

Similarly, if you plan to go to a protest, you can never be sure how violent things will get. In the past, protesters have lost phones while trying to record events, either from disapproving members of the public or the police.

The police may also seize the phone to go through its data. If you're on your burner phone, however, you can happily surrender your phone without worrying about your privacy.

## WHERE TO GET ONE

- Just about anywhere
- Best Buy
- Walmart
- Grocery Store
- Dollar Store
- (you name it)


## The End

- Enjoy your day!

