Kik

How can I keep my Kik account private?

Kik has been designed to give you full control over who can send messages to you.

Here's some quick tips to help you manage your account:

- Choose a username that's hard to guess. A combination of letters, numbers and some special characters is the best.
- The people you share your username with will be able to send messages to you on Kik.
- Sharing your username somewhere like Twitter, Instagram or Facebook will make it visible to people you might not know - and they'll be able to message you.
- Use our 'Block' and 'New People' features to manage messages from contacts and new people.

Additional Quick Tips:

- Do not register your KIK Account with your phone number.
- Do not connect your KIK Account with your address book.
- Regularly check your "New People" chat section to screen for new individuals who are attempting to contact you, and after screening, choose to respond, delete, or block.

Usernames

Unlike many other smartphone instant messengers, which are based on a users' phone number, Kik uses usernames to identify our users. Your unique username is your identity on Kik.

If you haven't registered your Kik account yet, choose a username that's hard to guess. The best usernames include a combination of letters, numbers, and some special characters, and ideally shouldn't be your first and last name.

By using a username instead of a phone number, your personal information (like your phone number and email address) is not shared by Kik. In addition, only people that you choose to share your username with (either directly or by turning on the optional Address Book Matching feature outlined below) will be able to contact you on Kik.

If you're an active user of other social apps and sites, you might choose to share your username or Kik Code on those sites to connect with your followers there. Remember that posting your username or Kik Code somewhere like Twitter, or Instagram, etc., will make it publicly available. This means that people you don't know will be able to send messages to you.

Use Phone Contacts

The Kik app includes an optional feature that you can turn on to help find your friends on Kik. The feature works by checking for accounts in Kik that match an email address or phone number stored in your contacts (on your smartphone). If we find a match, we'll notify both you and your friend with a Kik message.

Choosing not to turn on the optional feature will mean that:

- users who have your phone number or email saved in their phone will still be able to find you
- users who you choose to share your exact username with will be able to send messages to you

You can find info about how to stop people from finding you in this FAQ.

Note: On older versions of Kik, and on Windows Phone, Symbian and BlackBerry devices, this feature is called Address Book Matching.

Blocking Users

Kik's 'Block' feature allows you to block all contact with another user, without revealing to the other user that they've been blocked.

This FAQ explains how to block someone on Kik.

Blocking someone on your smartphone or iPod means that messages from the blocked user will be hidden from your Kik app. The blocked user's name will no longer appear in your list of contacts in Kik.

It is recommended that you do not associate your phone number or email address with Kik.

New Chats

The 'New Chats' feature on iOS and Android devices puts messages from people you haven't talked to before in a separate section, and provides the option to mute notifications for those messages. If you don't want to see inbound messages from people you don't know, you don't have to.

If you choose to open the chat in your 'New Chats' list, any content messages (like pictures, GIFs, etc.) will be blurred, and a read receipt won't be sent. This means that a new person messaging you won't know you've seen the message unless you tap Chat to start chatting.

It is recommended that you utilize this feature to keep chats that are from an unrecognized individual separate, as they can be more easily identified and blocked.

SAFETY & SECURITY FEATURES IN KIK APP

We believe that Kik should be a safe place for everyone to chat and share with their friends. We have built safety features into Kik including:

- Giving you the ability to block users.
- Giving you the ability to report users who are making you uncomfortable or sending spam.
- Giving you the ability to ignore new chats from people you don't know.

We also store, use, and maintain your personal information using procedures designed to limit its loss, theft, or unauthorized access, use, modification, copying or disclosure. When you enter your login information (such as username and password) on Kik, we encrypt the transmission of that information between the app and the server. As well, when applicable, we have contracts in place with our third party suppliers that obligate such suppliers to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. Despite these efforts, you should know that we cannot fully eliminate security risks associated with information. You are also responsible for helping to protect the security of your information and having a strong password that you've not used in other places is important.

HOW CAN I STOP PEOPLE FROM FINDING ME ON KIK?

It sounds like your Privacy Options are set so friends can find you on Kik if they have your phone or email saved to their phone contacts. It's super easy to change this. If you disable this option, you'll have to manually find your friends by adding their username or scanning their Kik Code. They'll have to do the same when they look for you.

If you've already opted to use your phone contacts to find friends on Kik:

1. From your main chats list, tap the **Search** icon
2. Tap **Use Phone Contacts**
3. Tap the **More** icon (3 vertical dots) in the top-right corner
4. Tap **Disable**
5. Tap **Privacy Options**
6. Disable the **Let Friends Find Me** setting so that people with your phone or email won't be able to find you.
7. Tap **I'm Sure**

If you didn't choose to use your phone contacts, and didn't disable the option to let people with your phone or email to find you:

1. From your main chats list, tap the **Search** icon
2. Tap **Use Phone Contacts**
3. Tap the **More** icon (3 vertical dots) in the top-right corner
4. Tap **Privacy Options**
5. Disable the **Let Friends Find Me** setting so that people with your phone or email won't be able to find you.
6. Tap **I'm Sure**