



The **Whiz**Cells

Things to Consider

When Buying or Selling
a Smartphone

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Introduction

Why You Need a Buying and Selling Guide for Used Smartphones

Smartphones are expensive. And since we're being honest, they don't usually last long, either. At most, you'll get one to two years out of a new model before it's time to upgrade, and possibly even less if something goes wrong or the phone breaks.

Subsidized contracts are a thing of the past, which means you need to pay full price every time you want a new phone. What you may not know, though — or maybe you do — is that you can buy phones cheaper if you don't buy directly from a wireless carrier.

How, you ask?



Buying secondhand smartphones is the way to go if you don't want to pay full price. At first, it doesn't seem like a good idea to purchase used electronics or refurbished goods, but it's possible to find them like-new and barely used.

Purchasing used smartphones is something most people don't consider when it's time to upgrade, which is a shame. Purchasing secondhand smartphones is not as bad as

you, or anyone else, may think — provided you're smart about it.

The process can be daunting, especially if you're not used to purchasing secondhand goods or bartering for items. That's why we put together a used smartphone buying guide to help you better understand the market and find exactly what you're looking for.

It's possible to venture out on your own to find a phone with little to no damage that's been taken care of by its previous owners. But you need to know what to look for and how to check out the history of the phone, including if a used phone could have been stolen.

Are you interested in buying refurbished smartphones at a reasonable cost? Are you excited by the possibility of buying used smartphones that are like-new, for a fraction of their original price?

You need to read this buying guide for refurbished smartphones.

We'll explain what to look for when buying a used smartphone and how purchasing refurbished smartphones on the cheap is possible. We'll tell you what to look for and what to avoid, and we'll even highlight some bartering tips to help you get that phone you want for less cash.

Do you know what technical specifications to look for to identify an old phone that's not worth buying? Do you know the physical indicators to look for to identify water damage? Do you know the difference between a used phone and a certified refurbished one?

If the answer is "no" to any or all of these questions, then this guide will help you. You won't find a more thorough and reliable buying guide for used smartphones. We took our time to put together one of the best, most comprehensive resources around.

If you're looking for a refurbished smartphone buying guide, then you've come to the right place.

Read on or visit The Whiz's eBay store to buy your phone now. Have a phone you'd

Chapter 1:

Where Can You Buy a Used Phone?

like to sell instead? Let us know, and check out the brands and models we're buying.

Buying a used phone is a daunting process. But even so, it's still so much easier than trying to decipher all the confusing phone-buying plans wireless carriers now have in place.

First, you need to decide where to buy used smartphones from. What wireless provider will you use for service? What phone model will you purchase? Do you want an iPhone, Android or something else entirely? Do you want an older model or a newer one?

There are so many things to take into consideration that it's easy to get overwhelmed. The best way to handle a decision like this is to break it down and take things step by step.

First, you'll want to know where to buy used cell phones online.

Places to Buy From

Before you can do anything else, you'll ask yourself: Where can I buy used smartphones? However, you'll likely also want to know where to buy used smartphones cheap.

There are many places you can buy used smartphones. In this guide, we'll discuss the most common options — like from us here at The Whiz Cells.

Obvious marketplaces include Amazon, eBay and Craigslist. You can also find used listings on Facebook, Offer Up and more. Finally, there's word of mouth, where you simply hear about a sale from a friend, family member or colleague.

Then, we always like to include vendors specific to cell phones and smart devices,

like The Whiz Cells. We specialize in buying and selling old phones, facilitating all the necessary trades in-house. Just go to our site, sell your phone or tablet and wait for the cash.

Buying and Selling via Classified Listings



Classified listings work a lot differently than they used to.

You no longer place an ad in the newspaper and wait to be contacted.

Classified listings work a lot differently than they used to. You no longer place an ad in the newspaper and wait to be contacted. If you really want to do it that way, you can, but it's not as efficient as modern classifieds.

Through sites like eBay, Craigslist and Amazon, you can sell your old devices by posting them on the site and waiting for a buyer to come and swoop them up. These sites do work a little differently, so we'll outline them in more detail.

Amazon, for example, is more of an online storefront. You place the phone or device for sale, and the site handles all the details. They inform you when to ship your device to a buyer and where. Then, you get your money in the mail or by electronic transfer.

eBay works similarly, but listings are an online auction instead of a straight sale — though you can turn the auction feature off. You set a minimum price, and then potential customers bid on it. When the sale goes through, you must ship the device to the buyer, and they will pay you through electronic transfer services like PayPal.

Craigslist, on the other hand, is a more traditional classified portal. You place a public ad, listing the details of your sale — which in this case would be your smartphone — and buyers get in touch to show their interest. When you find a serious buyer, you can arrange a meet-up to exchange the device and money in hand. You could also

arrange for the transaction to be handled through the mail, instead — shipping the device to the buyer and receiving money in the same way.

As you'd imagine, Craigslist is risky compared to the other sites. The advantage, though, is you can often make more money for your used products because you're not going through a middleman like Amazon.

Offer Up works more like Craigslist, in that you sell products locally through a mobile app or website. Exchanges must be done in-person, where the cash and item are swapped.

Swappa works more like Amazon. You can place an ad listing or browse to buy for yourself, and interested parties will purchase their used phones of choice and have them shipped to their home.

What Makes a Selling Marketplace Ideal?

Where can I buy a used smartphone, you ask? The answer is simple: The ideal place to shop is a used marketplace like Amazon or eBay.

But if you don't want to deal with buyers, you can sell directly to The Whiz Cells. We'll give you a quote and also pay for shipping if you accept. The reason why buying and selling used products online is so much better than traditional classifieds is because it's much easier, and you have better support.

For instance, sites like The Whiz Cells, Amazon and eBay allow you to reach a much larger audience. You aren't confined to just your local area, so you're more likely to get the money you want for your phone, and sell it faster.

In addition, sites like Amazon and eBay have built-in protections for the buyer and seller. If you purchase an item and it arrives unlike what you ordered — like not in working condition — you can file a claim and get your money back. Try doing that at a pawn shop, garage sale or store that specializes in used items.

The best feature of these selling marketplaces is that you can specify exactly what you're looking for. You can choose the make, model, year and even condition of a phone you want to purchase. If you're selling, you can choose how much you'd like to

sell the device for and determine other elements like reach — or where you're selling to.

The Whiz Cells makes the entire process extremely simple. You don't have to deal with third parties, potential customers or anything like that. You simply go to our site, post the device you'd like to sell and get a price. If you like what you see, you send the device to a company location, and we pay you in cash. That's it.



The Whiz Cells will honor a quote
for up to 20 days.

Many of these sellers also offer a guaranteed grace period for a quote. The Whiz Cells, for instance, will honor a quote for up to 20 days. So, if you want to take some time to think before you sell your device — or shop around for better quotes — you can do that without fear of losing money.

Physical vs. Online Smartphone Marketplaces

When selling through word of mouth or platforms like Craigslist, you actually have to meet in-person to make the swap. It goes without saying, but this can be very dangerous, since you're contacting and meeting up with strangers. You never know what could happen. Even something as simple as a used sale could end in a robbery, physical altercation or worse.

When things go right, physical sales work great. You can exchange the smartphone and the money, and you have it in-hand right away. Through online providers — especially when shipping is concerned — you may have to wait a couple days to get paid.

Alternatively, when selling online, the entire process is simplified. You don't even

have to leave your house if you don't want to — unless you don't have the necessary shipping supplies on-hand. Once the sale goes through on your storefront of choice, you ship the used smartphone to the buyer, and they will send you the money. That's it. No fussing about with meet-up locations, schedules or potential hazards.

The ideal choice is to sell through providers like The Whiz Cells, Amazon, Craigslist and others. The sale process is just simplified for everyone — buyers and sellers alike.

What to Know About Buying and Selling Used

Before you jump into the deep end, there are some things you should be aware of. We put together a short list of things to address while you're looking and after you find a device you like. This list applies to buyers and sellers:

- Check the condition of the smartphone and get a clear description of anything that's wrong or damaged.
- Make sure you view photos or images of the device you are buying — not placeholders.
- If you meet in person, check that the device turns on and is in working order. If you are buying online, note the grace period you have to return the item, if any.
- Never share your personal address or current location. If you arrange a meet-up, do so in a public location away from your home.
- When shipping, use a service like UPS or FedEx so you can get a tracking number — and give this to the buyer, too.

Got all that? Let's continue!

Chapter 2:

Physical Appearance and Condition

Before you hand over the cash and walk away with a new (used) phone, you'll want to do the initial inspection. Is it broken? Has it been abused by its previous owner? Will it do everything it's been advertised to do?

If you're not tech savvy, this experience won't be as straightforward for you. What to check when buying a used cell phone may not be immediately apparent. How can anyone tell the condition of a cell phone just by looking at it, anyway?

We're going to do our best to teach you. Let's get started!

Everything You Need to Know About Buying Used

Before you can assess whether the phone you're buying is truly worth it or not, you need to understand what to look for when buying a used cell phone. These buying a used smartphone tips are necessary for finding the right device for you.

What to Look For in Used Tech Device

The primary things you need to look for on a used phone are signs of abuse. We're not talking about cosmetic scratches or scuffs on the case. Those happen even if you're extremely careful with a phone — that's why it's a good idea for everyone to store their phone in a protective case, too.

We're talking about signs of severe physical damage, like water damage or rust, a cracked screen or broken buttons.

Pay attention to the seams on the device. If they seem altered, warped or stretched in any way, it's possible the phone was opened up at some point. This could mean something as simple as replacing the screen or battery, or it could be a bigger hardware problem.

If this sticker is red or another color entirely, it means the phone was submerged in water at some point, and the hardware inside was exposed to moisture.



Phones with a replaceable battery have a small white sticker on the inside, usually right underneath the battery. It will remain the color white until it comes into contact with water. If this sticker is red or another color entirely, it means the phone was submerged in water at some point, and the hardware inside was exposed to moisture.

Moisture can do weird things to electronics, especially if they're powered on when they come into contact with water. You don't want any device with water damage. Turn it down if you notice this.



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Turn it down if you notice this.

A broken display is not so much of an issue, so long as it has been repaired correctly. Certified refurbished phones are repaired and assembled by the official manufacturer, so there's nothing to worry about if that's what you choose to buy. A private seller who installed a new screen may not have taken the necessary precautions when doing the work, though.

If you buy from a private seller or third-party provider, by all means — scan the phone before handing over your cash, if that's possible. Some only let you see the phone

after a purchase has been made. If that's the case, take full advantage of the review period, and return the device as soon as you find something wrong with it.

Conditions to Consider With a Used Smartphone

Want to know what to look for when buying a used smartphone, at least when it comes to the condition of the phone?

The conditions you will need to be aware of range from broken to excellent, or "like new". These same conditions are used to classify your phone when you go to sell it as well.

If you're buying a used phone, you never want to get anything worse than "good," unless you're absolutely confident you can repair the damage. Excellent or "like new" devices were most likely kept inside a protective case, or they were not used often. Whatever the case, these are the conditions you'll want for a new phone.

When you're selling, the condition of the phone will determine the final sale price. So, if your phone is in worse shape, sellers and providers will offer less.



Less than **10% of devices**
fall into the Excellent or "Like New" category.

Here are the condition descriptions we use here at The Whiz Cells:

- **Excellent or "Like New"** — 100% functional and without any visible scratches, dents or wear. It looks like a brand new phone. Less than 10% of devices fall into this category.

- **Good** — 100% functional, and without cracks or breaks. Wear and tear are moderate to light, with only minor chips or scratches.
- **Cracked Screen** — 100% functional (you can see it still works), with a cracked screen or cracked glass ONLY. This means the LCD behind the crack still works, and the touchscreen functions are still operational.
- **Broken** — The phone is physically broken or damaged. Water damage does not count. The phone must still be able to power on if you wish to sell it.

Used vs. Certified Refurbished vs. Open Box

For the final part of this buying used cell phone tips section, we're going to detail the different options at your disposal. Essentially, there are three classifications:

- **Used** — Someone else owned the device and used it for a time.
- **Certified Refurbished** — The phone was returned to the manufacturer broken, or with defects. It was then repaired and updated by the official crew. It is now like new and in proper working order.
- **Open Box** — Open box items were returned to a store because the customer did not want them. This does not necessarily mean they are broken or have defects.

Often, you can buy open box items from a store, like Best Buy, directly, for much cheaper than one in a new, sealed box. You'll need to discuss the open box policy with employees at the store in question. Every store is different, and every store has a separate return policy. Some will allow you to return or exchange the item, while others will not.

As for used and certified refurbished devices, they are pretty much on the same level. Certified refurbished devices are generally in better shape and work fine, but they may have also been used for some time. This is why you can buy them at a discounted price, like used goods.

Chapter 3:

Cell Phone and Smartphone Technical Specifications

When it comes to the phone itself, you'll want to remain wary of several smartphone specifications and features. If you buy a phone that's way too outdated, you'll just end up buying another soon after to make up for the performance loss. Trust us when we say smartphone specs are a big deal.

To offer an example, let's take a look at Android.

There are many different software versions for Android, and anything older than 4.0 will be severely lacking in features today. That's because a large majority of apps on Google Play have been updated for the newer software versions. So, with an older phone, you'll be plagued with problems, particularly when it comes to finding apps and services that are compatible with your device.

Technical Specifications to Look out For

Techies, geeks and electronic enthusiasts spend a lot of time studying the specifications and hardware functions of a device before buying. They want to know if it's got all the latest cell phone technical specifications, and if it will be compatible with newer apps.

That may not be the case for you, especially if you're buying used. That said, you don't want to end up with a device that's so old you can barely find compatible apps and support.

What to Look For

The cell phone specs you need to be concerned with for a used smartphone are the following:

- Battery size and estimated battery life
- RAM or Memory (you want at least 1 GB)
- Network type (CDMA, GSM, etc.)
- SIM card compatibility

Pro Tip: On Android, you can actually use a service test code to run a full diagnostic of a phone. The code is different for each type of device. For example, Samsung has a separate one from HTC. You can read more about that [here](#).



Stay Away From Old Models

With iPhones, this isn't as much of a problem. Generally speaking, Apple's mobile operating system (iOS) remains compatible with older devices, up to a few generations back.

That said, you will notice that older iPhone models sometimes perform more sluggishly on the latest versions of iOS. That's natural, and it happens because newer software is typically optimized for more powerful hardware. This is really only the case with anything older than the fourth generation.

Plus, it's more cost-effective to sell your phone and upgrade every three years or so, if we're talking about the iPhone. So anything below generation four would be in the sweet spot for a trade-in.

But for Android, an older device can mean a boatload of problems. Some of the newest apps aren't supported on older versions of Android, and those that are supported will be missing features and may even perform worse. There are many underlying reasons for this, but the most obvious is the outdated hardware inside older phones.

That's not to say they won't work. You can almost always activate an older phone, and it will work fine for basic communication like phone calls, texting, emails and even social media. But if you decide to go that route, don't expect it to play the latest and greatest games, or include support for all the latest apps. It can be a real bummer when you want to install something on your device, only to find out it's not compatible.

We recommend buying an Android running version 4.1 or higher. That does mean your purchase will likely be more expensive, but it's worth it — especially if you want to take advantage of all that Android has to offer.

Chapter 4:

Is the Phone Stolen?

When buying a used phone, one of your biggest questions will be: How can I find out if a phone is stolen? For obvious reasons, you don't want to purchase stolen goods.

Why run a stolen phone check, you ask?

Stolen phones can be tracked through the IMEI number, serial number or registration account — and if the police show up at your door, they're going to think you stole it. Even if they don't accuse you, they will more than likely confiscate the stolen device, and you'll be out the money you paid.

So, wondering "is my phone stolen," and knowing how to check IMEI stolen status, is certainly warranted. Luckily, there are a few ways you can check if a phone is stolen or not. More particularly, you can use any number of free online tools to use the IMEI and look up stolen status.

How to Find out If a Phone Is Stolen?

How can I check if a mobile phone is stolen?

There are tools you can use to check the ESN or IMEI numbers of a phone to find out whether or not it's clean. This is essentially the serial number of a smartphone or cell phone. Any time it's activated on a service, this information is registered to the device's serial number.

How to Check the Phone

The first thing you'll want to do is look up the phone's IMEI or ESN numbers to check whether or not it's stolen. Most sites like Swappa allow you to look at this information before even making a purchase. There are providers, like Glyde and Amazon, that do not offer this information. However, Glyde will hold the seller's payment in escrow until the buyer has received the device and checked it.



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If you have an iPhone, there's another option you can use as well. As part of the new iCloud security features, Apple introduced an activation lock tool that allows you to check whether or not the device you have is stolen. You can do that here, and it merely requires you to submit the IMEI or Apple serial number.

Also, if you happen to have the serial number for an iPhone you're going to purchase, you can check warranty information, too. Just follow the prompts to enter the necessary info and see the remaining coverage, if there is any.

Know the Return Policies and Process

If you think the phone is legit, go ahead and buy it — but you'll want to get yourself familiarized with the return policies for the seller you're using. Going through Amazon or eBay? Make sure you read more about the buyer's protection they offer and how long you have to return the product or file a claim if you find something wrong when it gets to you.

If you're buying from somewhere like Craigslist, through private sellers directly, there's no guarantee you'll get a refund or a return if something is wrong. Be absolutely sure everything is okay before you hand over your cash.

What Are the Safe Places to Buy From?

In the end, the best way to ensure you're not buying a stolen device is to acquire it from a reputable source or marketplace. Then, you don't even have to worry how to find out if a phone is stolen or not.

While Amazon, eBay and Craigslist may have some of the cheapest deals for used goods, they're also more susceptible to problems such as this. Amazon and eBay at least have safeguards in place to protect buyers if they purchase stolen goods. Craigslist, on the other hand, is a classifieds site, and that means you handle any and all transactions at your own risk.

When you're buying a used smartphone, using a platform like The Whiz Cells is much safer. We screen the devices that come in. We automatically check for proper ownership and track serial numbers and purchase information.

When you buy a used product from a provider like us, you can be sure it's a legit sale. The Whiz Cells actually turns over lost or stolen goods to law enforcement.



Another way to be sure you're buying products on the up-and-up is to go through wireless carriers directly. Companies like Verizon, AT&T and T-Mobile sell certified refurbished phones in addition to brand new ones. You'll just pay a lot more money than if you were to go through a third-party seller, so keep that in mind.

What Places Should I Stay Away From?

On the other hand, there are places you should steer clear of when buying a used smartphone.

On Amazon, and elsewhere online, you can find many extremely cheap Chinese manufacturers that sell generic phones for ridiculously low prices. In many cases, they seem too good to be true. Don't fall into a trap and spend your hard-earned money on such electronics.

Yes, it is possible to purchase good-quality, cheap devices from China — particularly generic models. Companies like Chuwi, Huawei, Xiaomi and more are okay to buy from. We still wouldn't recommend doing so for one reason, though. Because these devices take so long to ship — if you're buying in the US — the claims and return process can be extremely complicated.

In addition, cheap Chinese phones have been known to house harmful malware and spyware, which can collect sensitive personal data for unscrupulous parties. The data is sent remotely, allowing someone to steal your identity, credit card information or worse.

This is a worst case scenario we're talking about, of course. Many people purchase goods from Chinese manufacturers with no issues. But, again, we just wouldn't recommend doing it.

Chapter 5:

Follow These Steps Before Meeting in Person to Sell or Purchase a Used Phone

Meeting up to sell products in person can be dangerous, especially when dealing with strangers. That's why the ideal channel is a service like The Whiz Cells, which allows you to trade in a used cell phone for cash.

If you're going to sell through Craigslist, word of mouth or a service like The Whiz Cells, there are some things you should know. Don't even attempt to trade in cell phones for money without reading this first.

Tips for Selling in Person

When you and a buyer finally decide on a price and choose to go forward with the sale, it's time to set a meet. Never meet at your personal address or the home of a family or friend. Instead, arrange a meeting in a public, heavily trafficked area like a mall, restaurant or store.

Local police stations have even begun offering a meet-up location on their property, which they sanction. It's safe and monitored for danger. These are called "SafeTrade" stations.

In addition, choose a meeting time when there are people around and there's plenty of light. It's not smart to meet up to do a cell phone trade in for cash at night in an empty parking lot.

Warning Signs

Most guides you'll read about buying products on Craigslist will provide some red flags or warning signs to watch out for. What you may not know is that these same warning signs can be used when communicating with a buyer as well.

Watch for overly aggressive behavior, poor grammar or spelling and extraneous requests, like "will you trade X for Y," when you have already explicitly named a price.



Watch for overly **aggressive behavior, poor grammar or spelling and extraneous requests**, like “will you trade X for Y,” when you have already explicitly named a price.

If you’re a buyer, make sure you see photos of the device you’re buying. Don’t accept generic product photos taken from an official website or product listing. We’re talking about actual photos of the smartphone, including proof the screen is not cracked, that it’s intact and that it works as advertised.

Also, watch out for multiple ad listings for the same product. Sellers are only supposed to post an ad in one city — their local area. If you see the same ad posted in multiple locations, that’s a big red flag to get out of Dodge.

If you would like more advice on avoiding Craigslist scams, MakeUseOf has an excellent guide.

Can I Trade My Phone for Cash?

Where can I trade in my cell phone for cash?

You can always pay a visit to your local pawn shop to sell your phone for cash, but they will never give you what it’s worth. Pawn stores are notorious for lowballing sellers, and then turning around and selling the same goods for inflated prices.

GameStop is similar. Believe it or not, they will accept used smartphones and tablets, and they sell them, too. But, like pawn stores, GameStop will never offer you a reasonable return.

That’s why we recommend going through The Whiz Cells, or similar platforms. We specialize in used phones, and so we offer some of the best prices around. You don’t have to worry about haggling because quotes are guaranteed for up to 20 days at a time. In addition, the money exchange process is relatively quick, even through the mail. Your device is shipped, and we send electronic funds upon arrival.

Chapter 6:

Buyer Protection

What can you expect for a guarantee when buying used smartphones? Is there always a return policy in place? Do you have any sort of protection in the event of a scam?

Is There Buyer's Protection for Used Phones?

Yes, there is such a thing as buyer's protection. But what you are entitled to depends on the place you choose to buy from.

If you buy from a seller directly on Craigslist, there's no protection at all.



If you buy from Amazon or eBay, your investment is guaranteed. If the item you receive is not as advertised — like a smartphone that doesn't power on — you can try to resolve the issue with the seller first. If an agreement cannot be reached, company representatives will step in to ensure you are taken care of.

Sellers like The Whiz Cells have a return policy in place.

Should I Have Insurance for a Used Phone?

As for protection after the transaction is finished, you'll need to look at insurance

for cell phones. You can activate protection plans for cell phones to protect your investment. If something happens, you make a claim — like with auto or home insurance — and get a replacement device in return.

Unfortunately, there are a few insurance providers that will not cover used phones. This is because most cell phone insurance plans can only be applied at the time of purchase, when the phone is new — and up to 30 days after.

But there is insurance for smartphones that have been used, so don't fret. The best mobile phone insurance companies are:

- eSecuritel — Allows you to purchase a cell phone insurance plan no matter when the phone was bought. This is through Esurance and Allstate.
- Protect Your Bubble — You can purchase an insurance plan for your phone anywhere from 12 to 35 months after it was bought, provided it's still under warranty. If you buy a certified refurbished phone from a reputable seller, they usually offer some form of warranty.
- Mobile Rhino — One of the few insurance providers that will allow you to buy a policy at any time, even for used phones. It's worth noting, though, that the service price and deductibles are quite high compared to other providers.

What Do Insurance Providers Cover?

This is another point that will depend on the insurance provider. Most insurance companies do not cover a phone that is lost or stolen, except for Mobile Rhino (but that also explains why their prices are higher).

In addition, there are limitations to coverage. For example, some providers may turn down a claim that involves water damage, while others do not. Asurion covers water damage and loss, along with stolen and damaged phones. Therefore, you'll need to refer to each individual provider to find out more.

Now you know the best cell phone insurance providers, and you're armed with the info you need to choose a plan. Get to it!

Chapter 7:

Negotiating the Deal

Want to know how to buy a used cell phone online for the best price possible? You've come to the right place. We're going to discuss all of that in our used cell phone buyer's guide, right here.

Are prices for used phones firm? Can you negotiate a better deal, or will you be stuck with the price that's offered? Let's dive in.

Is Bartering Possible?

The only time bartering is truly possible is when you're dealing with private parties buying or selling used cell phones online or in person. This includes platforms like Amazon, eBay and Craigslist.

If you go through a reputable seller like The Whiz Cells, the initial price we offer is what you're going to get. It won't go any lower for the guarantee period — up to 20 days — but it won't go any higher, either.

In reality, most people ask for way too much when selling used goods. They think because the device has some kind of sentimental value they can ask for more. That's not truly the case. A product, especially a smartphone, is only worth so much.

It behooves you to do the research before selling your smartphone or cell phone, which includes looking up how much your phone is actually worth.

How to Look up the Value of Your Phone

There are actually a couple tricks you can use to find the value of your phone.

First, go through a company like The Whiz Cells or GameStop and find out how much they would offer you for a trade-in. This price should be used as a minimum when deciding what you would like to ask for.

Second, go to eBay or Amazon — or any number of sellers, including wireless carriers — and find out how much they are selling the phone for. This price should be used as the cap, or maximum, when deciding on a price.


Then, take the numbers you have collected and take into consideration the quality and condition of your phone. If it's in pristine condition, you're justified in asking for the higher price.

You can also use online tools to check the price of a phone — like Verizon's trade-in value tool.

How Do I Know When to Take a Deal or Walk Away?

Want some tips for buying a used cell phone for cheap? You need to know how to barter. Some would even argue bartering is a form of art. It's certainly a skill.

However, the most important aspect of any barter or sale is knowing when to take a deal or walk away. You don't want to accept a price too low and lose out on potential money, but you also don't want to walk away from a great offer, either.



You don't want to accept a price too low and lose out on potential money, but you also don't want to walk away from a great offer, either.

It's tough discerning the boundary between the two. That's exactly why we discussed finding out how much your phone is worth. By figuring out the minimum and maximum prices, you have a great guideline for bartering or sales offers.

This price range can go both ways, too — whether you're buying or selling.

Never take a deal that's lower than the minimum price you have set, unless you absolutely need to sell as quickly as possible and no other offers have come through. On the other hand, never buy a phone for more than the maximum price you determined, because you're getting ripped off if you do — especially if the phone in question is used.

Conclusion:

Sell Your Old Phone and Buy Your Next Phone Through The Whiz Cells

Now that you know everything there is to know about buying and selling used smartphones, we think you'll agree that one of the best places to go is The Whiz Cells.

If you go through a site like Amazon or eBay, you practically have to handle everything yourself, and the risk is all on you. Sure, these portals offer protection for buyers and various grace periods — particularly when it comes to returning a purchased item — but they are not ideal.

Why? Well, for starters, they are skewed toward the buyer, rather than the seller. So, if you have a problem with a buyer, you're going to be out of luck.

In addition, the transaction is still going from one person to another, privately. This means you could be dealing with stolen goods or broken items, or you may not even get what you ordered at all. Plenty of people have great experiences with these channels, so don't let that turn you off. We just don't think the hassle is worth it.

Of course, eBay does have a new Quick Sale program, which is similar to how The Whiz Cells sale process works. You get to trade in old phones — just about any brand — and shipping is covered.

When you head over to The Whiz Cells, you can get an immediate quote for your phone, ship it out for free — we pay for shipping — and have cash in hand quickly. Of course, the phone does have to be inspected before we release the funds.

We think the process is much speedier than dealing with various buyers, packing the phone and accessories, waiting for it all to ship and then waiting for the money to come in.

Don't forget, you can also buy used phones from The Whiz Cells, too! So come check us out — we think you'll be glad you did.

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