



What iPads Will Stop Working and What iPads Are Not Outdated in 2026

Apr 10, 2026 Jonathan Sizemore

Summary

No iPad model will stop working in 2026, but Apple will discontinue support for some legacy models, leading to performance and security issues. iPads receiving security updates only are nearing the end of their support lifecycle and should be avoided for most users. For the best performance and long-term value, choose a model that is fully supported by the latest iPadOS version.

Clarification



First of all, it's important to clarify that no iPad model will literally stop working or be unable to power on in 2026. Even the oldest iPad 1st Gen, launched in 2010, can power on and perform basic tasks, such as browsing the Internet. However, each year Apple will discontinue its support for some legacy models and phase them out. These models will not receive the latest iPadOS updates, security patches, or support for new apps/features. Therefore, it will lead to

performance issues, security risks, or incompatibility issues. If you're shopping for a used or refurbished iPad this year, it's important to know which models are still worth buying and which ones you should avoid.

Whether you're buying for school, streaming, or productivity, choosing a model that still receives updates will ensure better performance, app compatibility, and long-term value.

How Apple Determines iPad Support Lifespan

Apple typically provides major iPadOS updates for about 5 to 7 years after an iPad is released. After that, some models may continue to receive security-only updates, while others are phased out completely.

There are three key tiers of iPad support:

- **Fully Supported** – Still receiving the latest iPadOS version (like iPadOS 26).

- **Security Updates Only** – No longer gets new iPadOS features but still receives critical patches.
- **Outdated** – No longer gets any updates from Apple and should be avoided.

Understanding which tier your iPad falls into is crucial when evaluating if it's still worth using or buying.

Understanding Security Updates

Just because an iPad doesn't run the latest iPadOS doesn't mean it's completely obsolete. Apple often continues to push security updates to older models for a few years after dropping the full iPadOS support.

These updates help patch vulnerabilities and keep the device relatively safe to use for light web browsing, email, or media consumption.

However, once a device stops receiving both iPadOS upgrades and security updates, it becomes increasingly risky to use—especially for tasks involving personal data or online transactions. In 2026, it's better to choose a model that's either fully supported or at least still receiving security patches.

Outdated iPads in 2026: Models You Should Avoid

These iPad models are no longer supported by Apple as of 2026. They stopped receiving both iPadOS updates and security patches, which makes them risky for daily use—especially if you rely on apps that need current software or security protections. Avoid buying or using these models unless for offline or extremely limited tasks.

It's worth mentioning that Apple still takes care of its legacy device users and released a security update (iPadOS 12.5.8) in Jan 2026 for old devices like iPad Air 1st Gen, iPad Mini 2nd Gen and 3rd Gen (launched in 2013 and 2014, 13 years ago). It extended digital security certificates to prevent core services such as iMessage and FaceTime from non-functioning. However, it still doesn't change the fact that these devices are outdated.

Model	Release Date	iOS/iPadOS End Date	Final iOS/iPadOS Version	Last Security Update
iPad 1st Gen	Apr 2010	Sep 2012	iOS 5.1.1	May 2012
iPad 2nd	Mar 2011	Sep 2016	iOS 9.3.5	Jul 2019
iPad 3rd Gen	Mar 2012	Sep 2016	iOS 9.3.5	Jul 2019
iPad 4th Gen	Nov 2012	Sep 2017	iOS 10.3.4	Jul 2019

iPad Air 1st Gen	Nov 2013	Sep 2019	iOS/iPadOS 12.5.8	Jan 2026
iPad Mini 1st Gen	Nov 2012	Sep 2016	iOS 9.3.5	Jul 2019
iPad Mini 2nd Gen	Nov 2013	Sep 2019	iOS/iPadOS 12.5.8	Jan 2026
iPad Mini 3rd Gen	Oct 2014	Sep 2019	iOS/iPadOS 12.5.8	Jan 2026

⚠️ These models are now considered fully outdated. They no longer support modern apps, security features, or web standards, making them unsuitable for most users in 2026.

iPads Receiving Security Updates Only (But don't support the latest iPadOS 26)

These iPad models no longer support the latest iPadOS 26, but Apple continues to provide critical security updates for now. While still usable for light tasks, their time is limited—most won't be supported beyond 2026. These should only be considered if you're on a tight budget and understand their limitations.

Model	Release Date	iOS/iPadOS End Date	Last iOS/iPadOS Version	Last Security Update
iPad 5th Gen	Mar	Sep 2023	iPadOS 16.7.15	Mar 2026
iPad 6th Gen	Mar	Sep 2024	iPadOS 17.7.10	Aug 2025
iPad 7th Gen	Sep	Sep 2025	iPadOS 18.7.7	Apr 2026
iPad Air 2nd Gen	Oct 2014	Sep 2022	iPadOS 15.8.7	Mar 2026
iPad Mini 4th Gen	Sep	Sep 2022	iPadOS 15.8.7	Mar 2026
iPad Pro 9.7-inch	Mar	Sep 2023	iPadOS 16.7.15	Mar 2026
iPad Pro 10.5-inch	Jun 2017	Sep 2024	iPadOS 17.7.10	Aug 2025
iPad Pro 12.9-inch 1st Gen	Nov 2015	Sep 2023	iPadOS 16.7.15	Mar 2026
iPad Pro 12.9-inch 2nd Gen	Jun 2017	Sep 2024	iPadOS 17.7.10	Aug 2025

⚠️ These models still work in 2026, but they're nearing the end of the line and don't support the latest iPadOS. Apple may stop security updates in the next 12–24


months. Devices (iPad Air 2nd Gen and iPad Mini 4th Gen) limited to iPadOS 15 will be discontinued first for security updates.

iPads Fully Supported by iPadOS 26 in 2026

These iPads are fully compatible with iPadOS 26 and continue to receive new features, security updates, and app support. If you're buying a used or refurbished iPad in 2026, models on this list are your safest and most future-proof options.

Model	Release Date	iOS/iPadOS Version at Launch	Support Latest	Receiving Security Updates
iPad 8th Gen	Sep	iPadOS 14	Yes	Yes
iPad 9th Gen	Sep	iPadOS 15	Yes	Yes
iPad 10th Gen	Oct	iPadOS 16	Yes	Yes
iPad 11th Gen	Mar	iPadOS 18	Yes	Yes
iPad Air 3rd Gen	Mar	iOS 12	Yes	Yes
iPad Air 4th Gen	Oct	iPadOS 14	Yes	Yes
iPad Air 5th Gen	Mar	iPadOS 15	Yes	Yes
iPad Air 6th Gen	May 2024	iPadOS 17	Yes	Yes
iPad Air 7th Gen	Mar	iPadOS 18	Yes	Yes
iPad Mini 5th	Mar	iOS 12	Yes	Yes
iPad Mini 6th	Sep	iPadOS 15	Yes	Yes
iPad Mini 7th	Oct	iPadOS 18	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch 1st Gen	Nov 2018	iOS 12	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch 2nd Gen	Mar 2020	iPadOS 13.4	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch 3rd Gen	May 2021	iPadOS 14.5	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch 4th Gen	Oct 2022	iPadOS 16	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch (M4)	May 2024	iPadOS 17	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 11-inch (M5)	Oct 2025	iPadOS 26	Yes	Yes

iPad Pro 12.9-inch 3rd Gen	Nov 2018	iOS 12	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 12.9-inch 4th Gen	Mar 2020	iPadOS 13.4	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 12.9-inch 5th Gen	May 2021	iPadOS 14.5	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 12.9-inch 6th Gen	Oct 2022	iPadOS 16	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 13-inch (M4)	May 2024	iPadOS 17	Yes	Yes
iPad Pro 13-inch (M5)	Oct 2025	iPadOS 26	Yes	Yes

 All of these models support iPadOS 26 and are expected to receive updates for several more years.

Reference:

- 1) Apple iPadOS <https://www.apple.com/os/ipados/>
- 2) Apple Security Releases <https://support.apple.com/en-us/100100>

Recommendations: Certified Used / Refurbished iPads Recommended Based on Budget and Use Case

Based on our UpTrade Price Tracker, here are the top picks for different needs and budgets:

Best for Kids: [iPad 8th Gen](#) or [iPad Mini 5th Gen](#) (\$150 - \$200)

Both available for under \$200, these models offer great performance for educational apps, games, and streaming while staying affordable.

Best for Students: [iPad 9th Gen](#) (\$200+)

Starting around \$200+, it includes Apple Pencil support, a reliable A13 chip, and a 10.2" display—perfect for note-taking, reading, and assignments.

Best for Casual Use / Browsing: [iPad 9th Gen](#) (\$200+)




This is also ideal for web browsing, watching videos, and everyday tasks at a low cost. If you can afford \$50 to \$80 more in your budget, you can also consider the [iPad 10th Gen](#), which is priced around \$300.

Best for Creatives and Power Users: [iPad Pro 12.9-inch 3rd Gen](#) (\$300+)

Priced from \$300+, it has the biggest screen and features a powerful A12X Bionic chip, large display, and support for advanced accessories like the Apple Pencil 2 and Smart Keyboard.

How UpTrade Can Help

Finding the right iPad in 2026 can be tricky, especially with so many outdated models still circulating online. That's where UpTrade comes in.

-  **Real-Time Price Tracking** – Instantly compare the best deals on Certified Used and Refurbished iPads from trusted sellers like Amazon, BestBuy, and Apple.
-  **Trusted Sellers Only** – We only list certified resellers, helping you avoid scams, bad batteries, or unsupported models.
-  **Optimized for Every Budget** – Whether you're shopping for a kid, a student, or a professional, UpTrade makes it easy to find the best iPad for your needs and budget.

FAQ: Buying an iPad in 2026

1. Are security updates enough if an iPad doesn't get iPadOS 26?

Security updates are helpful, but without full iPadOS support, you'll miss out on new features, better app compatibility, and long-term software support. Over time, apps and services increasingly require the latest iPadOS versions, which limits usability.

2. What is the oldest iPad you can still update?

As of 2026, the oldest iPads that can still update to iPadOS 26 are:

- iPad 8th Gen (2020)
- iPad Air 3rd Gen (2019)
- iPad Mini 5th Gen (2019)
- iPad Pro (2018 models and newer)

Anything older than these models is considered outdated from a software support perspective.

3. Is it safe to buy a 2015 or older iPad?

No. These models are considered completely outdated. They no longer receive software or security updates and may struggle with modern apps, websites, and online services.

4. Which iPads still receive iPadOS 26?

As of 2026, supported models include:

- iPad 8th Gen and newer
- iPad Air 3rd Gen and newer
- iPad Mini 5th Gen and newer
- iPad Pro (2018 and newer)

Read the article above for a full breakdown of supported and unsupported models.

5. What happens when an iPad is no longer supported?

When an iPad is no longer supported:

- It stops receiving major iPadOS updates
- Security vulnerabilities are no longer patched
- App compatibility gradually breaks down
- Online use becomes riskier over time

The device may still turn on, but it becomes increasingly unsafe and frustrating to use.

6. Which iPads are not worth buying in 2026?

In 2026, iPads that no longer support the latest iPadOS 26 are not worth buying, because they are at the end of their Apple support lifecycle. This includes:

- iPad 1st–7th Gen
- iPad Air 1st–2nd Gen
- iPad Mini 1st–4th Gen
- iPad Pro models released in 2017 and before

These devices are outdated and offer poor long-term value.

7. Are old iPads good for anything?

Old iPads can still be used for very limited offline purposes, such as:

- Playing downloaded videos

- Simple games
- Digital photo frames

However, they are not recommended for browsing, email, banking, schoolwork, or kids' online use due to security risks and poor app support.

8. Where can I find a good deal on a refurbished iPad?

Use UpTrade to find and compare the best Certified Used and Refurbished iPad deals from major retailers — all in one place.

9. Should You Buy a Used or Refurbished iPad in 2026?

Yes — as long as it's from a certified seller and supports at least security updates. Refurbished iPads from trusted sources like Apple, BestBuy, or Amazon Renewed are tested, cleaned, and often come with a limited warranty.

10. What's the difference between "Used" and "Refurbished" iPads?

Used iPads are typically sold as-is by individuals, with no warranty or quality checks.

Refurbished iPads are professionally inspected, repaired if needed, cleaned, and resold by certified vendors, usually with a warranty.

11. Can I still use an iPad that doesn't support the latest iPadOS?

Technically yes, but it's not recommended unless it still receives security updates. Without full iPadOS support, app compatibility and security risks increase significantly over time.

12. What's the best iPad to buy under \$200?

We recommend the iPad 8th Gen or iPad Mini 5th Gen. Both support iPadOS 26 and offer excellent performance for everyday tasks at a budget-friendly price.