

Here's everything you need to know about buying a renewed or refurbished Apple Watch, plus the best refurbished Apple Watch deals.

David Price Editor, Macworld FEB 4, 2025 8:22 am PST



Image: Foundry

There have been ten generations of Apple Watch, each available in multiple screen sizes, connectivity options, case materials, and straps, ranging from a couple of hundred dollars to literally thousands. Anyone else remember the original \$10k Apple Watch Edition?

While not all are available to buy directly from Apple—right now the company sells only the [Ultra 2](#), the [Series 10](#), and the [2nd-gen SE](#) released in 2022—it's easy to buy older models from third-party retailers or, if you'd like to save a decent chunk of cash, consider a refurbished model. And refurbished is an option you really shouldn't

ignore.

While you might scoff at the prospect of buying what is technically a second-hand watch, Apple's refurbishing process is admirably rigorous. In fact, apart from the packaging, we don't think you'd be able to tell the difference between an Apple Watch that the company is selling refurbished and one that's brand new. Other retailers have their own refurbishment processes, which vary in rigor and reliability, but when you take the potential savings into consideration, buying a refurbished Apple Watch becomes a highly tempting option.

In this article we break down everything you need to know about buying a refurbished Apple Watch from the Apple Refurbished Store or elsewhere to save some serious money. We have a bunch of deals at the bottom of the article, so if you want to [jump straight to the deals they are here](#).

If you want to save some money on an Apple Watch, it's also worth keeping an eye on our roundup of the [best Apple Watch deals](#). You may also be able to find a deal that bundles an Apple Watch for free. Read [How to get an Apple Watch for free](#) for more information.

Where to buy a refurbished Apple Watch

Here are some of the leading resellers of refurbished Apple products, including the Apple Watch, in the U.S.

- [Apple Refurb Store](#): Apple itself offers a range of refurbished Apple Watches, and in typical Apple fashion, the refurb is of the highest quality.
- [Walmart](#): US shoppers can also find refurbished Apple Watches from Walmart. Keep in mind, it's not directly from the retailer but from other sellers. The beauty is that if you run into trouble you can return the device at any Walmart location, and we've seen some very competitive prices from this retailer.
- [eBay](#): An obvious choice, but be cautious. Check the vendor's rating and feedback as well as the device's condition.
- [Amazon Renewed Store](#): We've seen some excellent deals on here, but stock of refurb Apple Watches seems to be running low lately. And check carefully for the condition: these details can sometimes be difficult to spot on the product page.

U.K. readers should try the following refurbished sellers:

- [Apple Refurb Store](#): Buyers in the past have remarked on the near-new quality of Apple Refurb products, albeit in plain white packaging. These may not be as cheap as the refurb units on offer elsewhere but the quality is exemplary and you can buy with peace of mind.
- [musicMagpie](#): musicMagpie is one of the most reputable refurbished sellers. It often has sales that reduce prices further. Plus, it also accepts old tech, gadgets, and media (including books and CDs) which you can trade in for more money off.
- [eBay](#): Check the vendor's rating and feedback, and use the Condition dropdown tool to distinguish between new and various grades of refurbished.
- [The iOutlet](#): The iOutlet is another reseller with great prices on refurbished devices, including several generations of the Apple Watch. You can also trade in other gadgets such as iPhones, iPads, and gaming consoles to earn cashback.
- [Amazon Renewed Store](#): Another solid option for refurbished Apple Watch deals. Purchases are not only backed by Amazon's standard returns policy, but the "Renewed Guarantee" as well, which lets you get a refund or replacement within 1 year of receiving your product.
- [Envirofone](#): Known for its smartphone offers, this site has in the past offered a solid selection of older Apple Watches too. Stock seems to be running low lately, however, and it's never been good for more recent units.

- [Refurb-Phone](#): Has deals available on some surprisingly recent Apple Watch models.
- [Laptops Direct](#): Despite the name, Laptops Direct also sells smartwatches. Select *Condition > Refurbished* in the lefthand filters column to see refurb offers only.

What's the difference between a new Apple Watch and a refurbished one?

Technically speaking, Refurbished Apple products (by which we mean specifically products refurbished by Apple itself) are pre-owned, but with such a meticulous refurbishing process undertaken by the company, it's unlikely you'll even notice.

It's not necessarily the case that the product has been used for years on end: it could have been used by a journalist relatively briefly for review purposes, or it could have been returned by a customer who quickly decided on a different make or model. Even if it was returned for being faulty after a period of use, Apple rectifies any issues before selling the unit on, providing a product that's essentially 'as new.'

When you buy a refurbished Apple Watch directly from Apple, you'll also get the same one-year warranty that you'd get when buying a brand-new Apple Watch, along with all the manuals and accessories that come with the smartwatch.

Explore frequently asked questions

The only noticeable difference is the packaging; refurbished Apple products come in a plain white box with no branding or imagery. We imagine this is something to do with stopping untrustworthy customers from buying a refurbished product and trying to resell it as new, but only Apple knows the real reasons why. Perhaps it's just cheaper.

The company promises that all refurbished Apple Watches are in full working order, and each unit is thoroughly tested to guarantee this. The Watch will have been thoroughly cleaned and inspected to make sure it holds up to Apple's high standards.

As with new Apple products, you've got the option of extending the warranty from one to two years by taking out [AppleCare+](#) for your refurbished Watch. This provides two years' worth of technical support, 24/7 access to Apple experts and hardware coverage for two accidents, although there's an additional \$69/£49 fee for repairs (or \$79/£55 for Ultra models).

Note once again, however, that the comments above refer to *Apple's* refurbished store. Other sellers will deliver varying standards of quality and reliability, although most of the big names provide a similar standard to Apple.

Should I buy a refurbished Apple Watch?

We think it's certainly worth considering, as top-quality refurbished products can look as good as new and, packaging aside, your experience will be identical to that of a first-time buyer.

Which refurbished Apple Watch should I buy?

If you're on the hunt for the latest Apple Watch Series 10, you likely won't find any at the Apple Refurbished Store just yet, so you'll have to go elsewhere. You'll easily be able to find a refurbished Series 8 or 9, however, and we've started seeing refurb stock of the Ultra 2. If you can find the Apple Watch Series 7 from 2021 (right now it's out of stock) the price should be excellent... but we wouldn't go any older than that.

You may be able to find a tempting-looking deal on the Series 6 or 5, but these models are quite a long way behind the current range in terms of features, screen size and so on. More importantly, the latter is no longer supported by Apple itself: you won't be able to install new versions of watchOS. And the Series 6 is likely to meet the same fate in the next year or two.

If you're struggling to decide on which Apple Watch is best for your needs, we recommend taking a look at our [Apple Watch buying guide](#), although that deals primarily with the current range. For comparisons with the older models, check out our extensive library of [Apple Watch reviews](#), or go to [Apple's website](#) and use the watch comparison tool. (Click *Watch* in the top bar, then *Compare*.)

Which Apple Watch models are available from Apple's Refurbished Store?



The Apple Watch Series 5 no longer receives new watchOS updates.
Foundry

With an ever-evolving stock, it should come as no surprise that products available in Apple's Refurbished Store change quite frequently. You'll want to check back regularly if a particular model of Apple Watch isn't available when you first look.

At time of writing, [the U.S. store](#) has refurbished Apple Watch [Series 9](#), [2nd-gen SE](#), and [Ultra 2](#) models. (The store has a slot for the first-gen Ultra too, but it's currently out of stock.) This may all change in the future as stock waxes and wanes.

Those browsing [the U.K. store](#) can choose from the Apple Watch [Series 8](#), [Series 9](#), [2nd-gen SE](#), [1st-gen Ultra](#), and [Ultra 2](#), and there's a currently unused slot for the Series 7.

As we say, don't lose heart if the configuration you want isn't there right now. You might get lucky in the future.

How to choose a refurbished Apple Watch

If the Apple Refurbished Store doesn't have the model you're after, you can try a third-party reseller. There are a few things to note before you hand over your cash, however.

Unlike the situation with Apple's refurbished devices, which will be virtually indistinguishable from new, third-party refurbished sellers tend to offer Apple Watches in a range of conditions. Some will use descriptive terms such as "pristine" and "good." Others will go for Grade A, Grade B, and Grade C, like grades on a report card.

A **Grade A** refurbished Apple Watch will be as close to new as possible. Any sign of wear will be so minimal, you probably won't be able to tell. Unsurprisingly, Grade A refurbished devices will be more expensive. **Grade B** may show some signs of wear but these will be mostly minor. Finally, a **Grade C** refurbished Apple Watch will show obvious signs of wear like scratches or scuffs.

Keep in mind, however, that these grades are only a rough indication of what to expect. There isn't a standards body that oversees these grades—which means a Grade A (or pristine) from one reseller may be closer to a Grade B or good elsewhere. This is why it's also important to look at all the individual return/warranty policies of the reseller before you part with your money.

Most trusted refurbished sellers offer a one-year warranty on purchases, which means you can get a refund or free repair should you run into any trouble. Many retailers such as [musicMagpie](#) and [4Gadgets](#) also offer 14-day money-back guarantees so you can return the device if you're not totally happy.

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David has been writing about technology for well over two decades, and got on board the Apple hype train when covering the original iPhone launch in 2007. He is an enthusiastic Apple Watch evangelist and feels that the HomePod is misunderstood.