

How to Turn Off Developer Mode on Android Safely

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By Vipin PG | Published December 4, 2021 | Updated March 12, 2026 | Format: Guide | 7 min read

Quick answer

To turn off Developer Mode on Android, go to Settings > System > Developer options and flip the toggle off at the top of the page. On Realme phones, find it under Settings > Additional Settings > Developer options.

Android gives you a lot of control, but let me clear something up right off the bat: Developer Options is not the same thing as root access. Switching it on doesn't root your phone, and it doesn't hand you full administrator privileges. What it does is surface advanced settings that Google tucks away from everyday users - because some of them can affect debugging, app behavior, animations, USB connections, and device security.

That's worth knowing because a lot of people flip it on for one specific reason, forget about it, and then later want it gone. Others accidentally enable it while tapping through the About Phone screen. Either way, the fix is simple once you know where your phone hides the menu.

If you want the official Google breakdown of what these settings are actually for, the Android developer options guide is a solid starting point. And if you're on a Samsung phone, Samsung's own Galaxy support steps confirm that menu locations can vary quite a bit depending on the brand and Android skin you're running.

One practical rule before you touch anything: if you're not actively using USB debugging, wireless debugging, or OEM unlocking, just keep Developer Options off. That's the safer default, plain and simple.

How to Turn Off Developer Mode on Android

On most Android phones, disabling Developer Options is painless. The exact menu wording shifts a little depending on whether you're running stock Android, Pixel UI, One UI, realme UI, ColorOS, or something else - but the general flow is almost always the same.

1. Open the Settings app on your Android device.
2. Scroll down and tap System - or search for "Developer options" directly from the Settings search bar if you can't find it.
3. Tap Developer options to open the menu.
4. Flip the main Developer options toggle off at the top of the page.
5. Back out of Settings. On many phones the menu disappears right away. On others, it stays visible until you close Settings or restart - that's normal.

That last step is what trips people up. The menu doesn't always vanish the second you flip the switch - sometimes it's only disabled first, then hidden after you leave the page or do a quick reboot. If it's still showing for a moment, don't worry. It worked.

Google's documentation confirms that Developer Options has a top-level on/off toggle, which is why flipping it off is enough for most people. You don't need to factory reset or clear anything significant just to hide the menu again.

What Actually Happens When You Disable Developer Options?

Mostly, your phone just goes back to normal. Advanced settings like USB debugging, wireless debugging, animation tuning, mock locations, and layout overlays stop being available. That's exactly what you want if you only turned the menu on for testing, troubleshooting, or a one-time setup task.

There's another good reason to turn it off once you're done: some developer features lower the barrier for device-to-computer access. If you're not actively building or debugging apps, leaving them enabled adds risk you don't need.

That same logic applies to installing apps from outside trusted sources. Google's own guidance on unknown app installs and Play Protect security makes that point clearly: the extra freedom is useful, but only when you understand the tradeoff you're making.

How to Turn Off Developer Mode on a Realme Phone

Realme phones don't always put this menu in the same place as stock Android - which is exactly why users end up confused. On newer realme UI versions, you'll find it under Additional Settings rather than the main System menu.

1. Open Settings and tap Additional Settings .
2. Tap Developer Options inside Additional Settings.
3. Turn off the Developer options toggle at the top of the page - it'll be switched on. Flip it off to disable developer mode on your Realme device.

Realme's support pages still point users to the build number route for enabling the menu, and the path afterward sits under Additional Settings or System Settings depending on your software version. That small wording difference is completely normal - don't worry if your screen doesn't match older screenshots exactly.

How to Enable Developer Options on Android

If you actually need it switched on, the process is straightforward. Google has stuck with the same basic method across modern Android phones, even if some brands tuck the Build Number entry into a slightly different submenu.

To turn on developer mode, follow these steps:

1. Open Settings on your Android device.
2. Tap About Phone.
3. Scroll to Build Number at the bottom of the page.
4. Tap Build Number 7 times in a row. You'll see a notification confirming developer mode is now active. If you have a security lock set up, you'll need to confirm it first.

Once enabled, Developer Options usually shows up under System near the bottom of the main Settings list. On Pixel phones, the path is Settings > About phone > Build number. On Samsung devices, it's About phone > Software information > Build number.

One thing people often get wrong: enabling Developer Options is not the first step to rooting your phone. Rooting involves bootloader policies, brand restrictions, and device-specific tools - it's a much bigger step than simply revealing developer settings. Google's factory image documentation is direct about this: unlocking the bootloader makes a device less secure.

How to Enable Developer Mode on a Realme Phone

Realme handles a few things differently in its settings app, which can throw people off. Here's the exact path if you're on a Realme device.

1. Open Settings and tap About Phone at the bottom.
2. Tap Version (Baseband & kernel) from the About Phone section.
3. Find Build Number on the next screen and tap it 7 times. Developer mode will activate. If you have a screen lock or password, you'll be asked to enter it first.

After that, you'll find Developer Options under Additional Settings.

What to Do If Developer Options Won't Disappear

This doesn't happen often, but it does come up. If you've already toggled it off and the menu is still sitting there, try this in order: close Settings completely, reopen it, and if it's still visible, restart your phone.

On some Android skins, the page stays cached for a bit even though the feature has already been disabled under the hood. Some brands also intentionally leave the menu visible but inactive until the next reboot - that's not a glitch, it's just how that skin handles refreshing the Settings interface.

Should You Leave Developer Options On?

Honestly? No - not unless you're actively using it. Developer Options is genuinely handy for app testing, USB debugging, animation tweaks, Bluetooth diagnostics, and a handful of other specific tasks. But for regular day-to-day phone use, there's no real benefit to keeping it on.

If you switched it on for a tutorial, an ADB command, or a one-off fix, turn it off when you're done. It keeps your settings cleaner, reduces the chance of accidentally changing something you didn't mean to, and puts your phone back in the safer default state where it belongs.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is it safe to turn off Developer Options on Android?

Yes, completely safe. Turning off Developer Options simply hides the advanced settings menu and disables features like USB debugging and mock locations. It doesn't delete any data, affect your apps, or change anything else on your phone. Your device goes back to its standard, default state.

Will disabling Developer Options affect my installed apps?

No. Turning off Developer Options doesn't uninstall or break any apps. The only thing that changes is that advanced developer features - like USB debugging and wireless debugging - become inactive. Any apps you installed while Developer Options was on will continue to work normally.

Why is Developer Options still showing after I turned it off?

This is normal on some Android skins. The menu can stay visible briefly even after the toggle is switched off, because the Settings interface hasn't refreshed yet. Close Settings, reopen it, or restart your phone - the menu should be gone after that.

Where is Developer Options on a Realme phone?

On Realme phones running realme UI, Developer Options is usually found under Settings > Additional Settings > Developer options. The path can vary slightly depending on your software version, but Additional Settings is almost always where to look first.

Does turning on Developer Options root your Android phone?

No. Enabling Developer Options does not root your phone or give you administrator-level access. It only reveals a hidden menu of advanced settings. Rooting is a completely separate process that involves unlocking your bootloader and using device-specific tools - it's a much bigger step with real security implications.

How do I re-enable Developer Options if I need it again later?

Go to Settings > About Phone > Build Number and tap it 7 times. You'll be prompted to confirm with your screen lock if you have one set. After that, Developer Options will reappear in your Settings menu, usually under System or Additional Settings depending on your phone brand.

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