

How to Install GrapheneOS on a Pixel Phone (2026 Step-by-Step Guide)

Tired of your phone tracking your every move? This guide walks you through installing GrapheneOS on your Google Pixel phone - the most hardened Android OS available for maximum mobile privacy.

What is GrapheneOS and Why Install It?

GrapheneOS is an open-source, non-profit security-hardened Android OS. Unlike standard Android or iOS:

- **Eliminates built-in tracking** - No Google services running in the background
- **Hardened security** - Protection against exploits and attacks
- **Full control** - You decide what each app can access
- **No telemetry** - The OS does not phone home with usage data

Three Ways to Install GrapheneOS

Option A: Web Installer (Easiest)

GrapheneOS now offers a web-based installer that runs in your browser. **No command line needed.**

Requirements: Computer with Windows 10+, macOS 14+, or Linux | Chrome/Edge/Brave browser | 2GB RAM, 32GB storage | Quality USB-C cable

Go to: grapheneos.org/install/web

Option B: Command Line (Traditional)

For users comfortable with terminal commands. Download the .zip from grapheneos.org/releases/ and run the flash script.

Option C: Professional Installation

\$99 plus courier shipping. Clean install only - we install GrapheneOS and ship it back. No data migration, no app setup.

Contact Privacell to Request Installation: privacell.ca/contact-us/

Prerequisites

- Google Pixel phone (Pixel 6 or newer recommended)

Backup Required

Installing GrapheneOS will **erase all data** on your phone. Before continuing:

1. Back up your contacts
2. Back up photos and videos
3. Export important information
4. Write down apps you need to reinstall

Step-by-Step Installation (Web Installer)

Step 1: Verify Compatibility

Phone Model	Supported
Pixel 6, 6 Pro, 6a	Yes
Pixel 7, 7 Pro, 7a	Yes
Pixel 8, 8 Pro, 8a	Yes
Pixel 9 series, 9a	Yes
Pixel 10 series	Yes
Pixel Tablet, Pixel Fold	Yes
Pixel 5 and earlier	No

Step 2: Enable Developer Options and OEM Unlocking

1. Go to **Settings - About Phone**
2. Tap **Build Number** seven times
3. Enter your PIN or password if prompted
4. Go back to **Settings - System**
5. Tap **Developer Options**
6. Enable **OEM Unlocking**

Step 3: Use the Web Installer

1. Open Chrome on your computer
2. Visit: grapheneos.org/install/web
3. Click **Start Installer**
4. Connect your Pixel via USB-C cable
5. Follow the on-screen instructions

Step 4: First Boot Setup

1. Select your language
2. Connect to Wi-Fi (optional - works fully offline)
3. Configure basic settings
4. **Important:** Skip Google account setup

Recommended Privacy-First Apps

Category	App	Why
Browser	Firefox or Brave	Built-in tracking protection
Search	DuckDuckGo	No search logging
Maps	Organic Maps	Offline-capable, no tracking
Messaging	Signal	Encrypted end-to-end
Email	ProtonMail	Encrypted email service

Common Problems and Solutions

"Your device is not supported"

Make sure your Pixel model is on the compatibility list. Only Pixel 6 and newer are supported.

Web Installer Won't Detect My Phone

Use a quality USB-C cable. Connect directly to your computer (not through a USB hub). Try a different USB port.

Phone Won't Boot After Flashing

Power off completely. Hold down **Power + Volume Down** for 10 seconds to enter recovery mode.

Apps Crash or Don't Work

Some banking and DRM-protected apps may not work. Consider using web versions or keeping a secondary device.

FAQ

Q: Will installing GrapheneOS void my warranty?

A: No. Your hardware warranty is separate from the software.

Q: Can I still use my banking apps?

A: Most banking apps work through Sandboxed Google Play. Some may not function.

Q: Can I uninstall GrapheneOS and go back to standard Android?

A: Yes. You can re-flash the original Android OS at any time (data will be wiped).

Ready to Get Started?

Option 1: Try the web installer yourself - grapheneos.org/install/web

Option 2: Want it done for you? - [Request Professional Installation](#) - \$ CAD 99.99 plus Courier charges

Would you like to talk to a human being?
We offer a free 30 minute consultation.
Call Gianni – 250.444.8404
www.privacell.ca

