

Now What?!?

SMART FIXES FOR LIFE'S LITTLE DISASTERS

By Nora Horvath

There's something in my eye.

THE FIX: Immediately flood the eye with water or artificial tears, says Assumpta Madu, MD, an ophthalmologist at NYU Langone Health in New York City. This will help "float" a piece of dirt or eyelash out of the lower lid area. Continue flushing the eye until the irritating item is removed. Resist the urge to rub the eye, which could scratch or injure the cornea, says Madu. And while the irritation might feel uncomfortable, know that there's actually no way to get something stuck behind the eye. If you are experiencing extreme redness, sensitivity to light, problems with vision, or pain, see a doctor.



I left my sweater on a hook, and there's a stretched-out spot.

THE FIX: In a basin or sink, soak the sweater in very cold water with a delicate detergent. This makes the fabric easier to manipulate, says Miriam Makes, owner of AlterKnit, a clothing-repair service in New York City that specializes in knits and wovens. Let the sweater sit for 10 minutes, then remove it and gently squeeze out excess water using your fingertips. Lay it down flat, either on a drying rack or on a flat surface on top of a clean towel. (Never wring out woolen fabrics.) Reshape the stretched-out area by pulling very lightly around it. Once the item is dry, steam or iron the sweater on a very low setting to set the fabric in place.

I'm worried about my pipes freezing when I'm away.

THE FIX: If you'll be gone overnight or you know that freezing temperatures will hit while you're away, open cabinet doors under sinks so warm air can get in, says Shane Wolcansek, owner of Sterling Craft Plumbing & Bath in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Also shut off the water supply to the entire house or apartment to prevent any flooding in case pipes do freeze. Turn faucets slightly on so they produce a consistent drip—you don't need a steady stream, says Wolcansek. This will drain the remaining water in the system and provide an escape route for any pressure that builds up, helping prevent more problems. Focus on faucets on your home's exterior walls (often the kitchen sink), as these are the most likely to freeze.

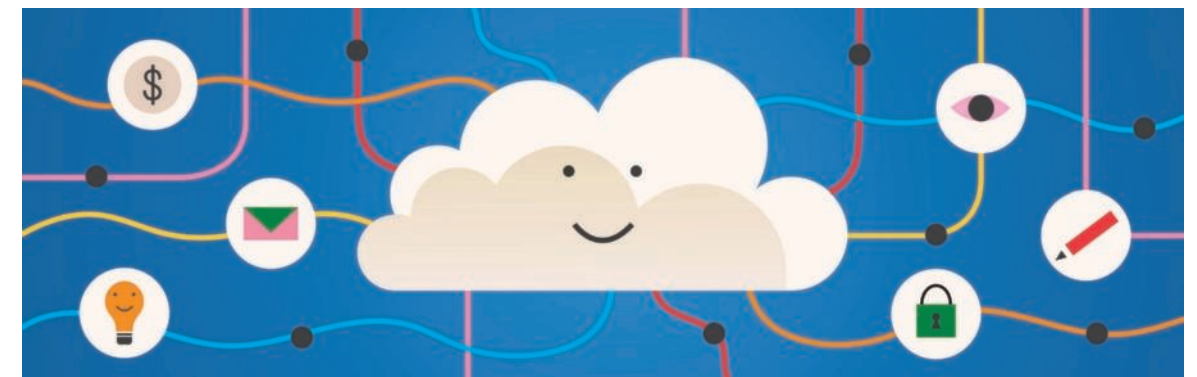
GETTY IMAGES

Real Simplifier

How Do I Use the Cloud?

IT SOUNDS SUPER MYSTERIOUS (LIKE OZ!), BUT THE CLOUD IS JUST SPACE ON THE INTERNET WHERE YOU CAN STORE AND VIEW COPIES OF IMPORTANT FILES. HERE'S HOW TO MAKE IT WORK FOR YOU.

By Maggie Puniewska



1

WHAT IS THE CLOUD?

"In short, the cloud refers to files and applications that are stored or used on the internet," says Farica Chang, director at Anderson Technologies, an IT company based in St. Louis. If you've watched something on Netflix, played your favorite song on Spotify, uploaded a photo to Dropbox, or saved a spreadsheet in Google Drive, you've used the cloud. It works like this: When something is stored in the cloud, it lives on that company's servers (a network of computers). When you want to work on a file or stream a show, it's shuttled from those servers onto your device.

2

SHOULD I STORE MY PERSONAL DOCUMENTS ON IT?

"If you take the right security measures, most files will be safe on the cloud," says Hillery Hunter, vice president and chief technology officer for cloud infrastructure at IBM. Any document that has your financial information—tax returns, health records, copies of social security cards—should be password protected and encrypted. Programs like Microsoft Office and Adobe Acrobat have both of those capabilities, but you can also purchase software such as Boxcryptor to add those protections for sensitive files stored with providers like Dropbox and Box.

3

I WANT TO BACK UP MY DIGITAL PHOTO LIBRARY TO THE CLOUD

"Most smartphones will send your snaps automatically to the company's cloud servers," says Chang. With your Apple ID (or other smartphone account), you can enable this feature in your phone's settings. Since videos can take up a lot more space than photos, consider off-loading only the true keepsakes to the cloud and removing the rest, since there's a limit to how much you can store for free. If you're a photo whiz looking to preserve images at a certain resolution, consider a service that caters to pros, like Adobe Creative Cloud, which also comes with editing tools.

4

I HAVE A BUSINESS AND WANT TO SET UP A CLOUD SERVER

The cloud comes with a lot of perks. Employees can remotely access files, and if a fire or flood occurs at the office, your data will be intact. If you're looking to make the switch, Chang suggests consulting with an IT professional who regularly sets up cloud servers for small businesses. Especially consider help if you handle personal, confidential, or proprietary information, or use specialized software beyond Microsoft Office or Adobe. "Experts can also help set up your security and double-check that your network is secure," adds Hunter.

5

WHEN SHOULD I START PAYING FOR EXTRA CLOUD SPACE?

If you have a large collection of something (like a family photo archive), consider additional storage. But before you invest, review your photos, videos, and downloads and delete anything you might not need from your cloud, not your computer, to free up your cloud storage. Then check existing subscriptions to see if they include cloud space—Amazon Photos, for example, provides unlimited photo storage for Prime members. Google, meanwhile, offers 15 GB of storage for free, while upgrading to Google One's 100 GB of space costs \$2 per month.