Best Privacy Flashlight App: No Ads, No Tracking, No Internet

Most flashlight apps secretly track you. Learn which ones respect your privacy and why it matters.

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The Dark History of Flashlight App Privacy

In 2013, the FTC investigated one of the most popular Android flashlight apps and found it was secretly sharing users' precise location data and device identifiers with advertising companies — without disclosure. The app had over 50 million downloads. Since then, flashlight apps have become a cautionary tale in mobile privacy.

The problem persists in 2026. Many flashlight apps still request permissions for camera, microphone, contacts, and location — none of which are needed to turn on a light. They embed advertising SDKs that track your behavior across apps and websites.

What Permissions Does a Flashlight Actually Need?

A legitimate flashlight app needs exactly two things:

- **Camera/flash access** — to control the rear LED (this is how phone flashlights work at the hardware level).
- **Screen control** — to display colored screen light.

That is it. Any app requesting location, contacts, phone state, internet access, or storage for a flashlight is collecting data it does not need.

Red Flags in Flashlight Apps

- **Internet permission** — a flashlight does not need internet. If it requests it, it is sending data somewhere.
- **Location permission** — why would a flashlight need your GPS coordinates?
- **Ads on the main screen** — ads require internet, tracking SDKs, and often location data.
- **Large app size** — a flashlight app should be a few megabytes. If it is 50 MB+, it is packed with ad networks.
- **Excessive permissions** — contacts, phone state, storage, microphone — all red flags.

Our Pick: OneTap – Flashlight & SOS

OneTap – Flashlight & SOS is designed with privacy as a core principle:

- **No internet permission** — the app never connects to any server. Zero data leaves your phone.
- **No ads** — no ad SDKs, no tracking pixels, no behavioral profiling.
- **No tracking** — no analytics, no telemetry, no third-party code.
- **Minimal permissions** — only camera (for LED) and screen control. Nothing else.
- **Works 100% offline** — by design, not as a fallback.
- **Lightweight** — small app size, fast launch, no bloat.

Download the privacy-first flashlight app for iPhone or Android.

How to Check If Your Current Flashlight App Is Safe

1. Go to Settings > Apps > [Your flashlight app] > Permissions.
2. Check what permissions it has been granted.
3. If it has internet, location, contacts, or microphone access — uninstall it.
4. Replace it with OneTap – Flashlight & SOS.

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