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how to remove connections on linkedin

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Introduction

LinkedIn has become the go-to professional networking platform for millions of users worldwide. Whether you're a seasoned executive, a budding entrepreneur, or a recent graduate, your LinkedIn profile serves as a digital résumé, a portfolio, and a hub for career opportunities. Over time, however, the connections you accumulate can grow into a cluttered network that includes former colleagues, classmates, or contacts you no longer engage with. This can dilute your network's value, slow down your feed, and even impact your professional brand.

Understanding **how to remove connections on LinkedIn**is essential for maintaining a clean, relevant, and engaging profile. Removing unwanted connections is not just about decluttering; it's also about privacy, strategic networking, and ensuring that your LinkedIn experience remains focused on your current career goals.

In this guide, we'll walk you through every step of the process—whether you're using LinkedIn on a desktop, a mobile browser, or the official app. We'll also discuss why you might want to delete connections, how to avoid accidentally removing valuable contacts, and the best practices for managing your network long-term.

Why You Should Consider Removing Connections

1. Keep Your Network Relevant

LinkedIn's algorithm prioritizes content from people you interact with the most. If your feed is flooded with posts from former teammates or alumni you rarely communicate with, you'll miss out on updates from those who truly matter to your career. By trimming your connections, you sharpen the relevance of your feed and increase the chances of seeing content from recruiters, industry leaders, and peers you actively collaborate with.

2. Protect Your Privacy

Every connection on LinkedIn grants that person a certain level of visibility into your profile and activity. If you've connected with individuals you no longer wish to share updates with—such as ex-employees or acquaintances from a past event—removing those connections helps safeguard your privacy and limits the spread of sensitive information.

3. Reduce Clutter and Improve Focus

A dense network can make it difficult to track messages, endorsements, and recommendations. Removing outdated or irrelevant connections streamlines your inbox, simplifies your notifications, and keeps your focus on meaningful professional relationships.

4. Maintain a Strong Personal Brand

LinkedIn is often the first place potential employers, partners, or clients look when evaluating a candidate's professional background. A tidy network that reflects your current industry, interests, and expertise signals intentionality and professionalism.

Common Reasons to Remove a Connection

- Ex-Employees or Former Colleagues: You no longer share professional updates or collaborate on projects.

- Alumni You Never Engage With: You're connected only because of a shared school, not because you maintain a professional relationship.
- Spam or Unwanted Contacts: Individuals who send unsolicited messages or post irrelevant content.
- Duplicates or Multiple Accounts: You have a duplicate profile or an old account that's no longer active.
- Personal to Professional Boundary: You wish to keep personal acquaintances separate from your professional network.

Before You Delete: Things to Consider

1. Verify the Connection's Profile

Take a moment to review the profile you're about to remove. Double-check that it's not a current colleague or a potential collaborator who might become relevant later. You can always reconnect if needed.

2. Check Mutual Connections

Sometimes a connection may be useful because of the mutual contacts you share. If you're unsure, consider temporarily unfollowing rather than deleting the connection.

3. Save a Backup

LinkedIn does not provide an export option for individual connections. However, you can manually document key contacts or use third-party tools to export your entire network if you need a record.

4. Understand the Impact on Your Network Size

LinkedIn has a recommended maximum of 30,000 connections. While this limit is rarely reached, keeping your network well below the threshold ensures optimal platform performance.

Step-by-Step Guide: How to Remove Connections on LinkedIn

Using LinkedIn on Desktop

1. Log In to your LinkedIn account on a web browser.
2. Navigate to the My Network icon at the top of the page.
3. Click on Connections from the dropdown menu.
4. Find the connection you want to remove by scrolling or using the search bar.
5. Hover over the More button (three dots) next to their name.
6. Select Remove Connection from the options.
7. A confirmation dialog will appear. Click Remove again to confirm.
8. The connection is now removed, and the person will no longer see your profile updates.

Using LinkedIn on Mobile Browser

1. Open your mobile browser and go to LinkedIn.
2. Tap the Me icon at the bottom.
3. Select View profile.
4. Tap More (three dots) and then Connections.
5. Locate the connection you wish to delete.
6. Tap the More button next to their name.
7. Choose Remove Connection and confirm.

Using the LinkedIn Mobile App

1. Open the LinkedIn app on your device.
2. Tap the Me icon at the bottom right.

3. Tap View profile.
4. Scroll down to Connections and tap it.
5. Find the contact you want to remove.
6. Tap the More button (three dots) next to their name.
7. Select Remove Connection and confirm.

Removing Multiple Connections at Once

LinkedIn's interface currently does not support bulk deletion of connections directly. However, you can streamline the process by using the search filter to group similar contacts (e.g., by industry or location) and then removing them one by one. For large-scale clean-up, consider using a third-party LinkedIn management tool that complies with LinkedIn's policies.

Alternative Ways to Manage Your Connections

Unfollow Instead of Removing

If you still want to keep someone in your network but no longer wish to see their updates, you can simply **unfollow** them. This keeps the connection intact while removing their content from your feed.

Use LinkedIn's "My Network" Filters

LinkedIn offers filters to view connections by company, location, or industry. This feature can help you identify clusters of contacts that may no longer be relevant.

Leverage the "People You May Know" Feature

When you see suggested connections that you don't want, you can click the "X" to dismiss them permanently. This prevents future suggestions of the same contact.

Regularly Audit Your Network

Set a quarterly reminder to review your connections. A quick audit helps maintain a purposeful network and keeps your LinkedIn experience efficient.

Best Practices for Maintaining a Healthy LinkedIn Network

1. Connect with Purpose

When you receive a connection request, evaluate whether the person adds value to your professional journey. Accept requests that align with your goals and reject those that don't.

2. Personalize Connection Requests

A brief note explaining why you want to connect increases the likelihood of acceptance and establishes a foundation for meaningful interaction.

3. Engage Consistently

Like, comment, and share content from your connections. Regular engagement strengthens relationships and keeps your profile active.

4. Use Endorsements Wisely

Endorse skills for colleagues you genuinely know. This encourages reciprocity and enhances your professional reputation.

5. Keep Your Profile Updated

A current résumé, headline, and summary attract relevant connections and make it easier to filter out outdated contacts.

Common Mistakes to Avoid When Removing Connections

- Deleting without Checking: Double-check the profile before deletion to avoid losing a valuable contact.
- Removing All “Alumni”: Alumni networks can be valuable; consider keeping a curated alumni list.
- Ignoring Mutual Connections: If you share many mutual contacts, removing one may affect the perceived network quality.
- Deleting Too Quickly: Take your time; a rushed deletion can lead to regret.

FAQs About Removing Connections on LinkedIn

Can I Reconnect After Removing a Connection?

Yes. After you remove a connection, you can send a new connection request if you wish to reestablish the relationship.

Will the Person Know I Removed Them?

No. LinkedIn does not notify users when they are removed from a connection list.

Does Removing a Connection Affect My Profile Visibility?

Removing a connection does not change your profile’s visibility settings. It simply stops that person from seeing your updates.

Can I Delete My Entire LinkedIn Network?

LinkedIn does not provide a bulk delete option. You would need to remove each connection individually or use third-party tools that comply with LinkedIn’s terms of service.

What Happens to Recommendations and Endorsements?

Any recommendations you gave remain on your profile. However, the person who recommended you will no longer be able to see your updates.

Conclusion

Managing your LinkedIn connections is a vital part of maintaining an effective professional presence online. By understanding **how to remove connections on LinkedIn**and applying thoughtful best practices, you can keep your network relevant, secure, and engaging. Remember, a well-curated LinkedIn profile not only reflects your current career focus but also enhances your opportunities for growth, collaboration, and success. Take the time to review your connections regularly, and enjoy a streamlined, purposeful LinkedIn experience.

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