

Chargeware: What it is, signs to spot, and how to stop unwanted charges

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

What you may notice

- Unexpected SMS fees or small recurring charges
- Subscription emails/texts you don't remember approving
- App asks for phone/SMS or billing permissions it shouldn't need

How it slips in

- Look-alike listings on official stores or sideloaded APKs
- Fake trials: tiny text, auto-renew toggled on by default
- Aggressive prompts: "Verify phone" or "Enable premium features"

Fix it now (quick steps)

- Uninstall the suspicious app.
- In your carrier account/app store, cancel subscriptions and block premium SMS.
- Contact your carrier/bank to dispute charges and add spending limits.
- Run a mobile anti-malware scan; review app permissions.

Prevent it

- Install only from trusted developers; read recent reviews and permissions.
- Avoid sideloading; be wary of "free trials" requiring a phone number or card.
- Use family/expense controls on carrier and app-store accounts.
- Keep the OS and security apps updated.