

## How to permanently disable Windows Defender Antivirus on Windows 10

### How to disable Windows Defender Antivirus using Group Policy

On Windows 10 Pro, it's possible to use the Group Policy Editor to disable the Windows Defender Antivirus permanently.

1. Use the **Windows key + R** keyboard shortcut to open the **Run** command.
2. Type **gpedit.msc** and click **OK** to open the Local Group Policy Editor.

3. Browse the following path:

Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Windows Defender Antivirus

4. On the right side, double-click the **Turn off Windows Defender Antivirus** policy.
5. Select the **Enabled** option.
6. Click **Apply**.
7. Click **OK**.

8. Browse the following path:

Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows Components > Windows Defender Antivirus > Real-time Protection

9. On the right side, double-click the **Turn on behavior monitoring** policy.

10. Select the **Disabled** option.
11. Click **Apply**.
  
12. Click **OK**.

13. On "Real-time Protection," double-click the **Monitor file and program activity on your computer** policy.

14. Select the **Disabled** option.
15. Click **Apply**.

16. Click **OK**.

17. On "Real-time Protection," double-click the **Turn on process scanning whenever real-time protection is enabled** policy.
18. Select the **Disabled** option.
19. Click **Apply**.
  
20. Click **OK**.

21. On "Real-time Protection," double-click the **Turn on behavior monitoring** policy.
22. Select the **Disabled** option.
23. Click **Apply**.

24. Click **OK**.

25. Restart your computer.

Once you've completed the steps, Windows Defender Antivirus will no longer scan and detect malware on your device, even after restarting your computer.

At any time, you can enable the Windows Defender Antivirus using the same steps, but on **step No. 5, 10, and 14**, make sure to select the **Not Configured** option. Then just restart your device to apply the changes.

## How to disable Windows Defender Antivirus using Registry

The Local Group Policy Editor is not available on Windows 10 Home, but you can still achieve the same results changing the Registry settings.

**Warning:** This is a friendly reminder that editing the registry is risky, and it can cause irreversible damage to your installation if you don't do it correctly. It's recommended to make a [full backup of your PC](#) before proceeding.

1. Use the **Windows key + R** keyboard shortcut to open the **Run** command.
2. Type **regedit**, and click **OK** to open the Registry.

3. Browse the following path:

HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Policies\Microsoft\Windows Defender

4. Right-click on the **Windows Defender** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **DWORD (32-bit) Value**.

5. Name the key **DisableAntiSpyware** and press **Enter**.
6. Double-click the newly created key and set the value from **0** to **1**.

7. Click **OK**.

8. Right-click on the **Windows Defender** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **Key**.
9. Name the key **Real-Time Protection** and press **Enter**.

10. Right-click on the **Real-Time Protection** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **DWORD (32-bit) Value**.
11. Name the key **DisableBehaviorMonitoring** and press **Enter**.
12. Double-click the newly created key and set the value from **0** to **1**.
  
13. Click **OK**.

14. Right-click on the **Real-Time Protection** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **DWORD (32-bit) Value**.
15. Name the key **DisableOnAccessProtection** and press **Enter**.
16. Double-click the newly created key and set the value from **0** to **1**.
  
17. Click **OK**.

18. Right-click on the **Real-Time Protection** (folder) key, select **New**, and click on **DWORD (32-bit) Value**.
19. Name the key **DisableScanOnRealtimeEnable** and press **Enter**.
20. Double-click the newly created key and set the value from **0** to **1**.
  
21. Click **OK**.

After completing the steps, simply restart your computer to disable the Windows Defender Antivirus permanently.

If you change your mind, you can always revert the changes using the same instructions, but on **step No. 3**, right-click the **DisableAntiSpyware** key, and select **Delete**. Then inside the **Windows Defender** (folder) key, right-click the **Real-Time Protection** (folder) key and select **Delete** to remove key and its content. Finally, restart your device to complete reverting the changes.

## How to disable Windows Defender Antivirus using Security Center

Alternatively, if you're installing a piece of software that requires deactivating the antivirus to install correctly, or you simply want to disable the Windows 10 built-in antivirus temporarily, you can use the following steps:

1. Open **Windows Defender Security Center**.
2. Click on **Virus & threat protection**.
  
3. Click the **Virus & threat protection settings** option.

4. Turn off the **Real-time protection** toggle switch.

After completing the steps, Windows Defender Antivirus will be disabled making it unable to monitor and stop malware from taking over your device. However, this is a temporary solution, eventually, the antivirus will re-activate automatically after you restart your device.

## Wrapping things up

While there could be scenarios where you may need to disable the antivirus, it's never recommended to have your device without malware protection.

If you're trying to get rid of Windows Defender Antivirus because you prefer another security software, you should know that the built-in antivirus will disable itself automatically during the installation of third-party security software.

It's should also be noted that the shield icon will continue to appear in the notification area of the Taskbar because it's the [Windows Defender Security Center](#) icon, not merely dedicated to the antivirus.

In the case you don't like the default anti-malware solution, here are a few alternatives that won't cost you a penny for basic protection

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