Getting started: Using SafeSearch

About Google's SafeSearch filter

Many users prefer not to have adult content included in their search results (especially if kids use the same computer). Google's SafeSearch filters provide you with the ability to change your browser setting to prevent adult content from appearing in your search results. Google uses automated methods to identify objectionable content, and constantly works to improve those methods based on user feedback. For sexually explicit content, our filter mainly relies on algorithms that look at many factors, including keywords, links, and images. No filter is 100 percent accurate, but SafeSearch should help you avoid most of this type of material.

Enable the SafeSearch filter

1. Visit the Google Preferences page.
2. In the SafeSearch Filtering section, choose the SafeSearch level you'd like to use:
   - **Strict filtering** filters sexually explicit video and images from Google Search result pages, as well as results that might link to explicit content.
   - **Moderate filtering** excludes sexually explicit video and images from Google Search result pages, but does not filter results that might link to explicit content. This is the default SafeSearch setting.
   - **No filtering,** as you've probably figured out, turns off SafeSearch filtering completely.
3. Click **Save Preferences** at the bottom of the page when you're done setting your preferences.

We do our best to keep SafeSearch as up-to-date and comprehensive as possible, but objectionable content sometimes slips through the cracks. If you have SafeSearch set to Strict and still stumble upon search results containing explicit content, please visit our webpage removal request tool to tell us about the sites or images you found.

Also, please note that no filter can replace a watchful eye. SafeSearch can serve as one of many tools and practices to help your family search the web more safely. For more pointers on keeping your family safe on the web, visit Google's Family Safety Center.

SafeSearch should remain set as long as cookies are enabled on your computer, although your SafeSearch settings may be reset if you delete your cookies.

⊞ Learn more

Lock the SafeSearch filter

If you have a Google Account, you can lock your SafeSearch setting so other users don't change it.

Concerns about Images results: Remove an image from Google search results

If you want an image removed from Google's search results, it's important to bear a couple of points in mind.

- Google doesn't own the web, and can't remove content from the web.
- The images in Google's search results are controlled by the webmasters of the sites that hosts those images, and not by Google. Google cannot remove content from the web.

If you own the site on which the image appears, you have a couple of options. You can:

- Remove the image from the site website. The next time we crawl your site, we'll see that the image is gone, and it will naturally fall out of our search results over time.
- Use robots.txt to block Google from crawling the image. It's not enough to remove the link to an image from a webpage: the actual image must be removed from the server.

If you don't own the site on which the image appears, you should contact the webmaster and request the changes above. Once the changes have been made, you can expedite the removal process by submitting a URL removal request. In the URL removal request tool, be sure to select the **Webmaster has already blocked this page** option.

Once the webmaster has removed the image from the webmaster's site or blocked it from being included in our index, our search results will automatically reflect the change after we next crawl the site. You can expedite this process using the URL removal tool.

To use the URL removal tool, you'll need to know the exact URL of the image you want removed. Here's how to find it:

1. Click the image that you locate in the image search results.
2. Right-click **See full size image** or **Full size**, and copy the link address.
3. Paste the URL into a file or document, so it's available when you use the URL removal tool.

Once you have the URL ready, follow the instructions for the URL removal tool.

> If you believe a site is infringing your copyright by publishing an image you own, you can file a DMCA request with Google to have the offending content removed from our search results. How to file a DMCA request. You may also be able to file a DMCA request with the host site, and if your request is successful and the content is removed, Google will see the change the next time we crawl the site, and the image will no longer appear in our search results.

Prevent your images appearing in Google search results

To prevent images from your site appearing in Google's image index, add a robots.txt file to the root of the server that blocks the image.

For example, if you want Google to exclude the dogs.jpg image that appears on your site at www.yoursite.com/images /dogs.jpg, add the following to your robots.txt file:

```
User-agent: Googlebot-Image
Disallow: /images/dogs.jpg
```

The next time Google crawls your site, we'll see this directive and drop your image from our search results.

To remove all the images on your site from our index, place the following robots.txt file in your server root:

```
User-agent: Googlebot-Image
Disallow: /
```

Additionally, Google has introduced increased flexibility to the robots.txt file standard through the use asterisks. Disallow patterns may include "*" to match any sequence of characters, and patterns may end in "$" to indicate the end of a name. To remove all files of a specific file type (for example, to include .jpg but not .gif images), you'd use the following robots.txt entry:

```
User-agent: Googlebot-Image
Disallow: /*.gif$
```

By specifying Googlebot-Image as the User-agent, the images will be excluded from Google Image Search. It will also prevent cropping of the image for display within Mobile Image Search, as the image will be completely removed from Google's Image index. If you would like to exclude the images from all Google searches (including Google web search and Google Images), specify User-agent Googlebot.

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