

# 6 Safari Settings to Change to Improve Your Mac Browsing Experience

People use Safari as their default browser on their Mac because it's better optimized for macOS and uses less power. It also offers more functionality than other browsers.

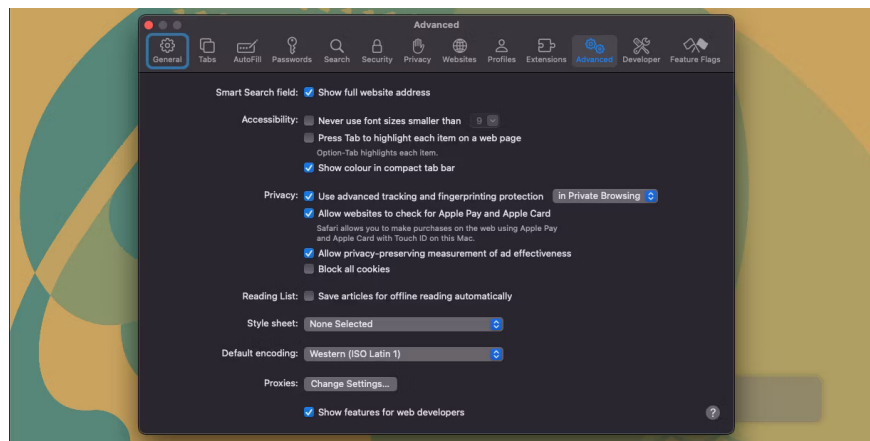
However, with these tweaks, you'll get more out of Safari on your Mac.

## 1. Show full URL in address bar

The default setting in Safari is to only show the website's domain name in the address bar. This makes the address bar look clean and minimalist. However, the downside to this setting is that you can't tell exactly where you are when viewing pages other than the home page on the website.

Many people like to know exactly where they are when browsing any website, so they set Safari to display the full URL in the address bar. Here's how:

1. Open Safari and click **Safari** on your Mac's menu bar, then select **Settings** .
2. Select **Advanced** to open advanced settings.
3. Next to **Smart Search Field** , select the **Show full website address** option .



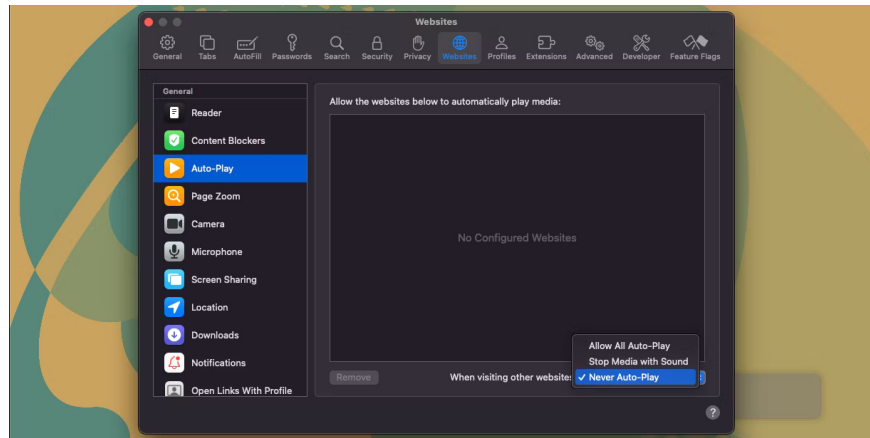
Safari automatically saves every change, instantly displaying full URLs in the address bar.

## 2. Turn off video autoplay

One of the most annoying features on some websites is autoplaying videos. You may have experienced the same thing when you visit a website and hear a video autoplaying on that website.

Luckily, you can prevent this problem by using Safari's built-in autoplay feature to block any website from automatically playing videos. Here's how:

1. Click **Safari** on the menu bar and select **Settings** .
2. Click **Websites** to go to website settings.
3. In **Websites** , select **Auto-Play** .
4. Click the option next to **When visiting other websites** and select **Never Auto-Play** .



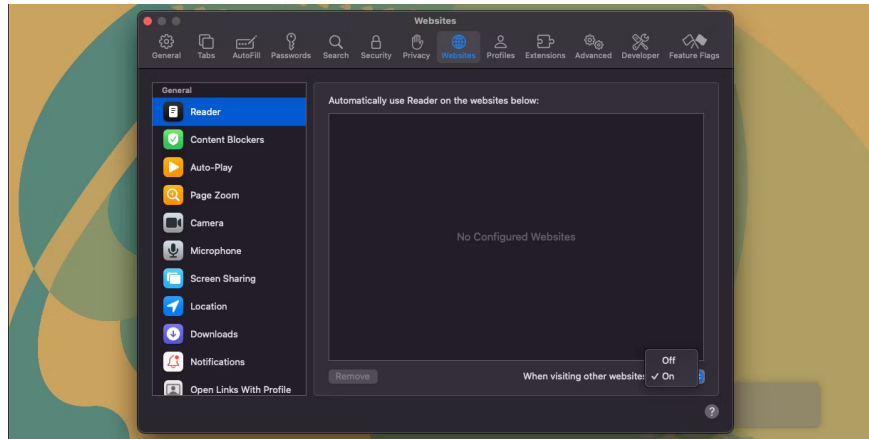
In my experience, some websites (like the Daily Mail) may still ignore this option and will autoplay the video without sound. However, this can be solved by enabling another feature called Reader View.

### 3. Turn on Reader View for all websites

Most websites have clutter that ruins the reading experience, including pop-ups. Safari's answer to this problem is Reader View, which lets you see a clutter-free version of any web page.

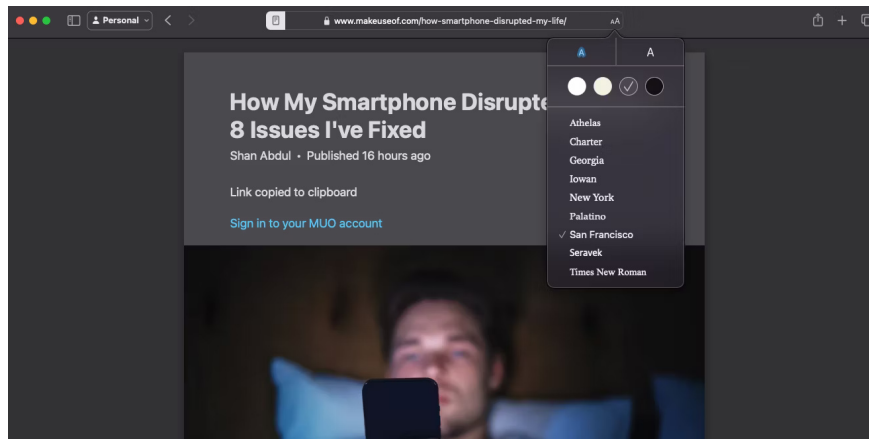
This feature removes all unnecessary elements from a web page, including ads, pop-ups, comment sections, and any other unnecessary styling that might not improve the way you view the page, especially when reading. Here's how to enable Reader View:

1. Click **Safari > Settings** from the menu bar, then select **Websites** .
2. Select **Reader** from the left sidebar if not already selected.
3. Click the drop-down box next to **When visiting other websites** and select **On** .



From now on, Safari will display websites in Reader View whenever possible. For convenience, Safari adds a special icon to the left of the address bar that you can use to turn off Reader View at any time.

When viewing a page in Reader View, you can adjust the font family, size, and background color by clicking the **aA** icon to the right of the address bar.



This feature won't work on all websites; for example, it doesn't work on Amazon's home page. In addition to macOS, you can also use Reader View in Safari on other platforms if you find it useful. In addition to using Reader View, there are other tips for improving your Safari experience on iPhone.

## 4. Turn off website notifications

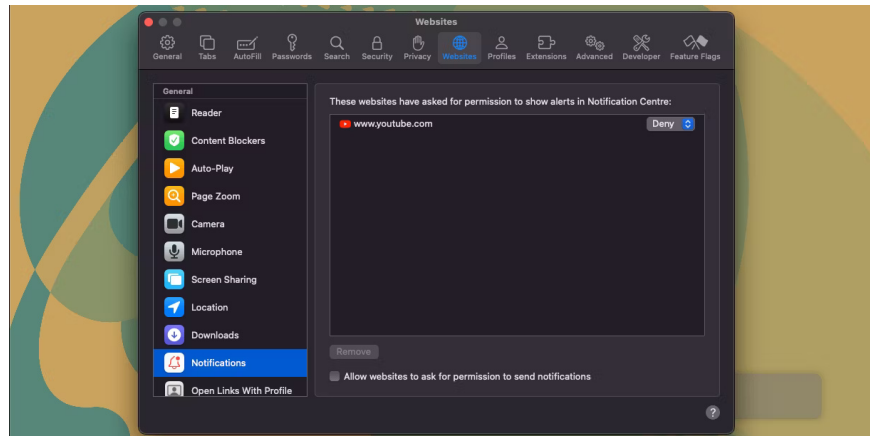
Browser notifications are essential because they ensure you don't miss an update. For example, getting notifications from your email provider right in your browser can be convenient. However, you don't need notifications from most websites on the Internet. Plus, some websites abuse this feature and use it to send you ads. Block all websites from sending notifications to combat this in Safari.

Safari lets you exclude certain websites from sending notifications, but many people prefer to get notifications on their phone rather than in the browser.

To block all notifications from websites in Safari, follow these steps:

1. Click **Safari > Settings** from the menu bar.

2. Go to **the Websites** tab and select **Notifications** from the left sidebar.
3. Uncheck the box next to **Allow websites to ask permission to send notifications** .

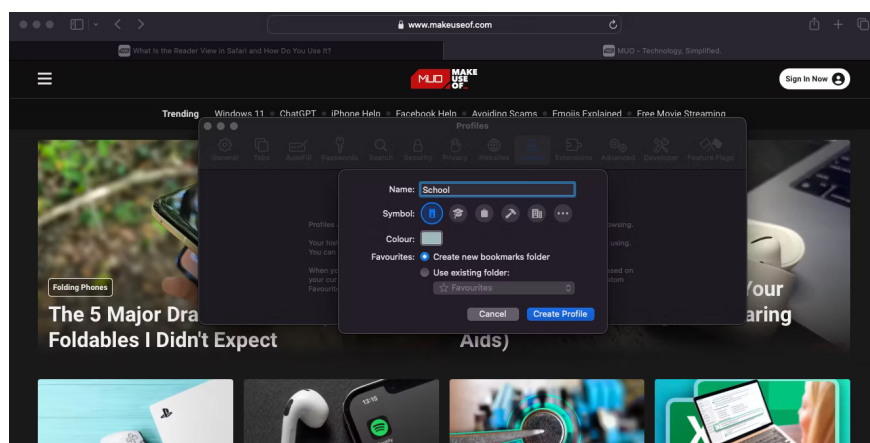


With this setting, no website can send notifications.

## 5. Enable Safari profile

You can separate your work and personal browsing activities in Safari using the built-in profile feature. You can create a Safari profile by following these steps:

1. Click **Safari > Settings** from the menu bar.
2. Select **the Profiles** tab and select **Start Using Profiles** to begin.
3. Enter a profile name and optionally choose an appropriate icon and color.
4. Once done, click **Create Profile** to create a new profile.



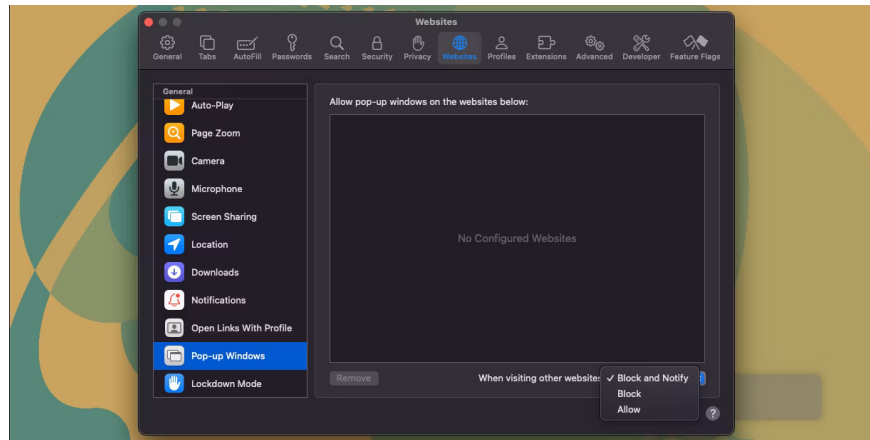
You can also create and use profiles in Safari on your iPhone or iPad, as this feature isn't exclusive to the macOS version of the browser. You can create more than two profiles to separate your browsing activities if you have more than two things going on.

## 6. Block pop-up windows

Users often encounter annoying pop-up windows on websites. They have become really popular in recent times and are often used to display advertisements and warnings. Not only do they ruin the user experience when trying to view a website, but they can also be a waste of time.

With Safari, I no longer have to worry about this because it provides a way to automatically block these pop-ups by default. You can block all pop-ups in Safari by following these steps:

1. Open Safari and go to **Safari > Settings** from the menu bar.
2. Select **Websites** from the settings window.
3. On the left sidebar, scroll down and click **Pop-up Windows**.
4. Click the option next to **When visiting other websites** and select **Block** or **Block and Notify**.



Adjusting these settings will dramatically improve your Safari browsing experience. You can see your exact location when browsing any web page, use Reader View for a clutter-free reading experience (which also clears pop-ups), and have multiple profiles to separate your browsing activities.

Also, say goodbye to website notifications and pop-ups. Some of the features mentioned here are available in other browsers, but there are more reasons why people use Safari instead of other browsers on their Mac.

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