

How to add exceptions in Windows Defender on Windows 10

Windows Defender is integrated into Windows 10 to find malware. To improve performance for tasks such as compiling code or running virtual machines, you can add exceptions and Windows Defender will never scan those files.

Windows Defender, integrated into Windows 10, runs in the background and scans files for malware. To improve performance for tasks such as compiling code or running virtual machines, you can add exceptions and Windows Defender will never scan those files.

Warning : Be careful about what you exclude. Windows Defender will not scan excluded files and folders for malware.

How to add exceptions in Windows Defender on Windows 10

Step 1:

First, you need to launch **Windows Security** to change some settings. Open the Start menu and enter **Windows Security** . Then select the **Windows Security** application .

Step 2:

In **Windows Security** , navigate to **Virus & Threat Protection** . Then click **Manage Settings**.



In Windows Security, navigate to Virus & Threat Protection

Step 3:

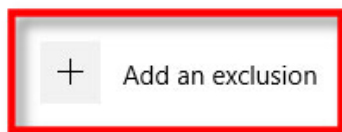
In **Virus & Threat Protection Settings** , scroll to the bottom of the page and click **Add or Remove Exclusions**

Step 4:

On the **Exclusions** page , you can add or delete files that you want to exclude from the Windows Defender scan. To add an exception, click the **Add An Exclusion** button next to the large plus (+) symbol .

Exclusions

Add or remove items that you want to exclude from Windows Defender Antivirus scans.



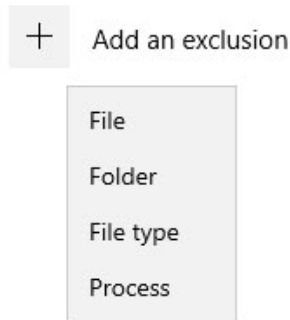
Click the Add An Exclusion button

Step 5:

A small menu will appear allowing you to specify exceptions by **File**, **Folder**, **File type** or **Process** (file, folder, file type or process).

Exclusions

Add or remove items that you want to exclude from Windows Defender Antivirus scans.



A small menu will appear allowing you to define exceptions

What you choose depends on the type of exception you are trying to make. This is what each option will do.

1. **File:** If you select this item, a box will appear allowing you to browse the computer to select a file to be excluded from future scans. Select the file you like, then click **Open**.
2. **Folder:** Like the **File** option, this will allow the computer to search for a specific folder and exclude it from the scan. Content and subfolders in this directory will also be excluded.
3. **File type :** A box will appear asking you to enter the file extension (e.g. **.MID**) representing the file type that you can exclude. All files of that type will be excluded from future scans. This is very dangerous, because you can accidentally exclude a large group of potentially malicious files, such as PDFs or DOCs.
4. **Process :** A window will appear asking you to enter the name of a process (a running program, such as **explorer.exe**) to exclude from the scan. If a program you know is safe, but it will be flagged by Defender, you can enter it here.

Choose one of these options and make the necessary selections in the following pop-up dialog box. When you add an exception, it will display in a list on the **Exclusions** page .

Exclusions

Add or remove items that you want to exclude from Windows Defender Antivirus scans.

+ Add an exclusion

C:\Destination Station\Abraham Lincon.com
File

.MID
File type

explorer.exe
Process

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Exceptions will appear in a list on the Exclusions page

Step 6:

If you want to delete a specified exception, move the mouse pointer over the item until the down arrow appears, then click the **Remove** button .

Exclusions

Add or remove items that you want to exclude from Windows Defender Antivirus scans.

+ Add an exclusion

C:\Destination Station\Abraham Lincon.com
File



Remove

.MID
File type

explorer.exe
Process

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Click the Remove button to remove the exception

Step 7:

When done, close Windows Security and your settings will be saved. The next time the system performs a Defender scan, the items you have added to the exclusion list will no longer cause trouble.

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