

HOW-TO

Using the Shield page

Applies to: Shield Core, Edge & Vault

The Shield page is where you decide what your whole network blocks. Everything you set here applies to every device at once. To apply a rule to just one device, use the Control page instead. Open the Shield page from the menu at the top of the dashboard.

The status strip

At the top of the page, five tiles give you a quick read on protection without scrolling:

- **Protection** — whether Shield is active or currently paused.
- **Active Rules** — how many filtering rules are live right now.
- **Filter Updates** — when your filter lists last refreshed.
- **SafeSearch** — whether SafeSearch is on, and on how many engines.
- **Apps Blocked** — how many popular apps or services you've blocked.

DNS filtering

Filtering is grouped into three categories — Adult content, Malware & phishing, and Ads & tracking. Each has a simple scale. Choose the level that suits your home; you can change it any time.

Level	What it does
Off	No filtering for this category.
Light	Blocks only the worst offenders. Least chance of catching a site you want.
Standard	A balanced setting that suits most homes. A good place to start.
Strong	Tighter filtering. The occasional legitimate site may be caught.
Strict	The most thorough setting. Best for child-focused setups.

- **Adult content** and **Malware & phishing** offer all five levels (Off to Strict).
- **Ads & tracking** offers Off through Strong.

A sensible starting point for most homes is Standard across all three, raising Adult content to Strong or Strict if children use the network.

Lowering a level applies straight away. Raising a level can take a little while as the larger filter lists download and activate — this depends on your internet speed and the size of the lists.

Whitelist & blacklist

Use these for the exceptions filtering doesn't get right. Enter one plain domain per line (for example `example.com`), then Save. Changes take a few seconds to apply.

- **Whitelist** — always allow these domains, even if a filter would normally block them. Use this if a site you trust is being caught.
- **Blacklist** — always block these domains, on top of the filter lists.

Pause protection

Temporarily turns Shield off for the whole network — handy when something won't load and you want to confirm whether filtering is the cause. While paused, Shield stops DNS filtering, network enforcement (the anti-bypass rules), and SafeSearch, allows Apple Private Relay, and permits all popular apps.

- Choose **5 min**, **30 min**, or **2 hours**. Protection switches back on automatically when the timer ends.
- **Resume** turns protection back on immediately.

Changes can take 10–30 seconds to take full effect.

Active filters

A read-only summary of which filter lists are currently active. There's nothing to set here — it's a confirmation of what your chosen levels have switched on.

Update filters

Filter lists improve over time. This section controls how often Shield refreshes them.

- **Update Now** — refresh immediately.
- **Weekly** — the recommended setting for most homes.
- **Daily** — refresh every day if you prefer the newest lists.
- **Off** — stop automatic updates (not recommended).

SafeSearch

SafeSearch asks search engines to hide explicit results. Turn it on with the master switch, then open Search Engines to choose which ones it applies to. Shield supports SafeSearch on seven engines: Google, YouTube, Bing, DuckDuckGo, Ecosia, Yandex and Pixabay.

Covering Ecosia, Yandex and Pixabay is broader than most parental-control products manage — worth enabling all seven for a child-safe setup.

Block popular apps & services

Block specific apps and services by name — social media, streaming, games and more. Use the search box to find one quickly (for example Facebook, TikTok or Netflix), then switch it off for the whole network. This is the simplest way to keep a particular app off every device at once.

Tips & troubleshooting

- Most changes take 10–30 seconds to apply across the network.
- If a site you trust stops loading, add it to the Whitelist before lowering your filtering level.
- To block an app for one device only, use the Control page instead of blocking it for everyone here.
- Unsure whether Shield is causing an issue? Pause for 5 minutes to check, then Resume.

Need a hand? As a founding member you have a direct line to the people building Shield — email hello@wombatss.com.