# Disabling Microsoft Ads in Windows devices

### Disable ads in the Windows 11 Start menu

- 1. Right-click on the **Start** button, then click **Settings**.
- 2. Click Personalization, then click Start.
- 3. Disable Show recommendations for tips, shortcuts, new apps, and more.

← Settings		- 0 ×
Brock Bingham brock.bingham@	Personalization > Start	
Find a setting Q	✓ Show recently added apps	On 💽
Home System	☆ Show most used apps	On 💽
8 Bluetooth & devices	<ul> <li>Show recently opened items in Start, Jun</li> <li>Lists, and File Explorer</li> </ul>	n 💽
Network & internet      Personalization	Show recommendations for tips, shortcu new apps, and more	ts, Off 💽
Apps Accounts	Show account related notifications occasionally in Start When off, required notifications are still shown	On 💽
<ul> <li>Time &amp; language</li> <li>Gaming</li> </ul>	Folders These folders appear on Start next to the Powe	er button
<ul><li>Accessibility</li><li>Privacy &amp; security</li></ul>	elated support	

Disabling this setting should stop Microsoft recommended store apps from showing up in the Start menu.

## Disable ads in the Windows Settings app

Don't want to see suggested content in the Windows settings app? I don't blame you. Here's how to disable that.

- 1. Launch the **Settings** app (*right-click on the* **Start** button, then click **Settings**,) then click **Privacy & security**.
- 2. Click General.
- 3. Disable Show me suggested content in the Settings app.
- 4. While you're on this page, feel free to disable the other telemetry settings.

← Settings	- D ×
Brock Bingham brock.bingham@w	Privacy & security > General
Find a setting Q	Let apps show me personalized ads by using my Off  Off
System	Let websites show me locally relevant content by off  Off
<ul> <li>Bluetooth &amp; devices</li> <li>Network &amp; internet</li> </ul>	Let Windows improve Start and search results by Off Off
Personalization Apps	Show me suggested content in the Settings app Off
<ul> <li>Accounts</li> <li>Time &amp; language</li> </ul>	Privacy resources About these settings and your privacy   Privacy dashboard   Privacy Statement
Gaming	
Accessibility     Privacy & security	Related support
Windows Update	

# Disable lock screen notifications, suggestions, and tips

Tired of your lock screen being cluttered with a bunch of notifications, suggestions, and tips? Here's how to disable this:

- 1. In the Settings app, (right-click on the **Start** button, then click **Settings**,) click **Personalization**.
- 2. Click Lock screen.
- 3. Change **Personalize your lock screen** from **Windows spotlight** to **Picture**, then uncheck **Get fun** facts, tips, tricks, and more on your lock screen.

Brock Bingham   brock.bingham@     Find a setting     System   Bluetooth & devices     Personalization > Lock screen     Personalization > Lock screen	
Find a setting   System   Bluetooth & devices	
Find a setting     Q       System     Bluetooth & devices    Personalize your lock screen  Picture	
System         Bluetooth & devices         Personalize your lock screen         Picture	
8 Bluetooth & devices Personalize your lock screen Picture ~	
New year and the second s	^
Vetwork & internet	-
Personalization	
Apps	
Le Accounts	
Time & language	
Gaming	_
X Accessibility Get fun facts, tips, tricks, and more on your lock screen	
Privacy & security     Lock screen status     Weather and more	
Windows Update	
Show the lock screen background picture on the sign-in screen On	D

#### 4. Lastly, change the Lock screen status to None.

Personalise your lock screen	None
Lock screen status     Choose an app to show detailed status on the lock screen	<ul> <li>Dev Home</li> <li>Weather and more</li> </ul>
Show the lock screen background picture on the sign-in screen	On 💽

## Disable notification ads and device setup prompts

To disable useless notifications do the following:

- 1. In the Settings app, click **System** then **Notifications**.
- 2. Scroll down, and while you're scrolling, disable notifications from any apps you don't want to receive notifications from.
- 3. At the bottom of the page, click **Additional settings**.
- 4. Uncheck the Show the Windows welcome experience... and Get tips and suggestions... settings.

< :	Settings				-	0	×
	Brock Bingham brock.bingham@		Syst	em > Notifications			
Find	a setting	٩	æ	Suggested Banners, Sounds	On		>
	System			OneDrive Banners, Sounds	On (		>
8	Bluetooth & devices						
-	Network & internet		E	Startup App Notification	Off (		>
1	Personalization		-				
	Apps		e <sup>®</sup> ®	Additional settings			^
:	Accounts			Show the Windows welcome experienc	e after		
3	Time & language		I 1	updates and when signed in to show w and suggested	hat's ne	W	
<b>E</b>	Gaming			Get tips and suggestions when using W	Vindows		
×	Accessibility			<u> </u>			

# Disable ads and suggestions in your search menu

#### If you don't like your search menu looking like this:



To lose the adverts:

Suggested

O Tips

👩 Paint

oneDrive

Calculator

File Explorer

Mail

Get Started

C Microsoft Edge

Email and accounts

C Check for updates

Themes and related settings

Snipping Tool

- 1. In the Settings app, click Privacy & Security.
- 2. Click Search permissions.
- 3. Disable **Show search highlights**.

#### Here's how to get your search menu looking like this:

### Remove unwanted ads from File Explorer

Here is how to make sure ads don't show up in File Explorer.



- 3. Click the View tab.
- 4. Uncheck Show sync provider notifications.



# Disable the Windows widgets app

If you would like to get rid of the Windows Widgets app

- 1. In the Settings app (right-click on the **Start** button, then click **Settings**,) click **Personalization**.
- 2. Click Taskbar.
- 3. Disable the **Widgets** option.

← Settings	-	
Brock Bingham brock.bingham@w	Personalization > Taskbar	
Find a setting Q	You need to activate Windows before you can persona PC.	alize your
System	Activate now	
8 Bluetooth & devices	Taskbar items Show or hide buttons that appear on the taskbar	^
Network & internet		
Personalization	Q Search Search box	<u>·</u>
Apps	Task view On	
💄 Accounts	Widgets Off	
🕥 Time & language		
🚳 Gaming	💭 Chat On 🤇	
★ Accessibility	System tray icons	
Privacy & security	Choose which icons can appear in the system tray	<u>^</u>

Adapted from: <u>How to disable ads on Windows OS | PDQ</u> https://www.pdq.com/blog/how-to-disable-ads-on-windows/

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