# 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 > Star	t
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,</li> <li>Lists, and File Explorer</li> </ul>	Jump On 💽
Network & internet      Personalization	Show recommendations for tips, shown apps, and more	rtcuts, Off 💽
Apps Accounts	Show account related notifications occasionally in Start When off, required notifications are still sh	On own
<ul> <li>Time &amp; language</li> <li>Gaming</li> </ul>	Folders These folders appear on Start next to the F	Power 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	- O ×		
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 accessing my language list 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		
<ul> <li>Gaming</li> <li>Accessibility</li> </ul>	Related support		
Privacy & security	Help with Privacy		
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.

← Settings		- D X
Brock Bingham brock.bingham@	Personalization > Lock scree	n
Find a setting		
System		
8 Bluetooth & devices	Personalize your lock screen	Picture ~ ^
Vetwork & internet	Recent images	
Personalization		
Apps		
Secounts		
🕥 Time & language	Choose a photo	Browse photos
🥶 Gaming	12	
X Accessibility	Get fun facts, tips, tricks, and more on your lo	ck screen
Privacy & security	Lock screen status	Weather and more
Windows Update	Choose an app to show detailed status on the lock screer	
	Show the lock screen background picture on the sign-in	screen On 🦲

#### 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	Dev Home
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 experience	e after		
3	Time & language		I 1	updates and when signed in to show w and suggested		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	-	- o x		
Brock Bingham brock.bingham@w	Personalization > Taskbar			
Find a setting Q	<ul> <li>You need to activate Windows before you can perso PC.</li> </ul>	nalize your		
System	Activate now			
8 Bluetooth & devices	Taskbar items A Show or hide buttons that appear on the taskbar			
Network & internet				
Personalization	Q Search Search box	×		
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	^		

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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