

Scams & online safety | Easy | 2 min read

Do you need antivirus beyond Windows Security?

Many people are told they must buy extra antivirus software. For most home users, the free protection already built into Windows is good enough, as long as it is switched on and you stay careful.

What Windows Security is

Windows 10 and 11 come with **Microsoft Defender**, part of an app called **Windows Security**. It scans for viruses, blocks harmful downloads and provides a firewall. It updates itself automatically.

Is it enough?

For most people, yes. Independent testing has found it works well. Similarly, Macs have built-in protections and Apple checks apps in its store. The biggest risk is not a missing program but being tricked into handing over details or installing something yourself.

When paid antivirus can help

- You like extras such as a password manager, a VPN or identity monitoring.
- You want one product covering several devices.
- You would like a helpline.

These are optional extras, not a must.

What to be careful of

- **Never trust pop-ups** that say your computer is infected and tell you to call a number or buy something.
- Do not run two antivirus programs at once, as they can slow things down and clash.
- Be wary of "free" antivirus from unknown sources, as some is itself unwanted software.
- When a paid subscription renews, check the price. Many renew at higher rates.

How to check Windows Security is on

1. Click **Start**, type **Windows Security** and open it.
2. Look for green ticks on the main screen.
3. If you see a yellow or red mark, click it and follow the suggestion.
4. Choose **Virus & threat protection** and then **Quick scan** for a manual check.

Keep it working

The best protection is keeping Windows and your apps updated, using strong passwords and two-step sign-in, and thinking before you click.

When to get more help

If you have two antivirus programs, a warning you do not understand, or a bill for security software you do not remember buying, contact us and we will sort it out.

Still stuck? Email admin@visiontech336.com and tell us what you can see on the screen. Menus and button names can differ slightly between versions and makes. If something does not match, stop and ask rather than guess. Please never send passwords or card details.