How to permanently disable Windows Defender Antivirus on Windows 10 Pro and Enterprise

On Windows 10 Pro and Enterprise, you can use the Local Group Policy Editor to disable Windows Defender Antivirus permanently using these steps:

- 1. Open Start.
- 2. Search for **gpedit.msc** and click the top result to open the Local Group Policy Editor.
- 3. Browse the following path:

```
Computer Configuration > Administrative Templates > Windows
Components > Windows Defender Antivirus
```

4. Double-click the Turn off Windows Defender Antivirus policy.



5. Select the **Enabled** option to disable Windows Defender Antivirus.

💭 Turn off Windows	Defender Antivir	s – 🗆 🗙
Turn off Windows	: Defender Antivir	s <u>P</u> revious Setting <u>N</u> ext Setting
○ Not <u>C</u> onfigured ● <u>E</u> nabled	Comment:	^
() <u>D</u> isabled	Supported on:	At least Windows Vista
Options:		Help:
		 This policy setting turns off Windows Defender Antivirus. If you enable this policy setting, Windows Defender Antivirus does not run, and will not scan computers for malware or other potentially unwanted software. If you disable this policy setting, Windows Defender Antivirus will run regardless of any other installed antivirus product. If you do not configure this policy setting, Windows will internally manage Windows Defender Antivirus. If you install another antivirus program, Windows automatically disables Windows Defender Antivirus. Otherwise, Windows Defender Antivirus will scan your computers for malware and other potentially unwanted software. Enabling or disabling this policy may lead to unexpected or unsupported behavior. It is recommended that you leave this policy setting unconfigured.
		OK Cancel <u>A</u> pply

- 6. Click the **Apply** button.
- 7. Click the **OK** button.
- 8. Restart your device.

After you complete the steps, the default antivirus for Windows 10 will be permanently disabled on your device. However, you'll notice that the shield icon will remain in the taskbar, but this is expected because the icon is part of the Windows Security app, not from the antivirus. If you change your mind, you can always re-enable Windows Defender Antivirus using the same instructions, but on **step No. 5**, make sure to select the **Not Configured** option, and restart your device to apply the changes.