



WINDOWS SECURITY ESSENTIALS

IS MICROSOFT DEFENDER ENOUGH?



Understand your PC's built-in defenses without marketing panic. Learn why Defender handles everyday protection, where extra tools fit, and how to avoid sluggish, overloaded systems.



RGE TIP: Real safety begins with clicking habits. Built-in protection works best when your browser stays updated and you avoid unexpected links and attachments.



MAC NOTE: Apple includes built-in safeguards (XProtect) in macOS. The golden rule applies anywhere: stacking multiple real-time antivirus engines causes severe conflicts.

1. CORE PROTECTION (ESSENTIALS • EVERYDAY TASKS)



Microsoft Defender

Pre-installed in Windows at no extra cost. Runs quietly in the background without nagging sales pop-ups or costly renewals.



Is Defender Enough?

Yes, for most home users.

Delivers solid real-time defense against viruses, ransomware, and spyware.



Smart Habits

No software stops an authorized bad download. Avoiding shady email links remains your first and best line of defense.



Auto-Updates

Updates silently alongside regular Windows Updates to recognize new online threats automatically.

RGE TIP: Keep Windows updated and practice sensible clicking—Defender does the heavy lifting.

2. COMPANION TOOLS (GOOD TO KNOW • DO MORE)



Need Paid Antivirus?

Usually not. Reputable paid suites offer bundled extras (like VPNs), but aren't automatically safer or required.



Where Malwarebytes Fits

Specializes in catching annoying browser hijackers, adware, and potentially unwanted programs (PUPs).



Malwarebytes Free

Acts as an on-demand scanner. Runs only when opened—ideal as an occasional second-opinion checkout tool.



Malwarebytes Premium

Adds real-time shields. Must be configured properly so it doesn't fight Defender for scanning duties.

RGE TIP: Run Malwarebytes Free monthly or if your browser behaves strangely for an easy checkout.

3. COMMON PITFALLS (USE WITH CAUTION • CONTROL)



Stacking Antivirus Suites

Never run 2 real-time engines. They duplicate scans, slow down your PC, and trigger conflicting alerts.



Automated Adjustments

Installing third-party security automatically puts Defender into standby to prevent severe system collisions.



Subscription Panic Scams

Ignore scare pop-ups claiming collapse upon expiration. If a paid sub lapses, uninstall it and reactivate Defender.



Fake "PC Cleaners"

Avoid web ads for "PC Boosters" or "Free Registry Cleaners"—they are frequently malware or adware in disguise.

RGE TIP: Don't buy renewals out of fear. Defender is already waiting to protect you for free.

RECOMMENDED SETUP: PRACTICAL, ECONOMICAL & SAFE



Active
Defender



Keep PC
Updated



Install Free
Malwarebytes



On-Demand
Scans



You're
Protected!

IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDERS

- ✓ Microsoft Defender is built-in, complete, and 100% free.
- ✓ Sensible clicking prevents what antivirus cannot stop.
- ✓ Never install multiple paid real-time antivirus engines.
- ✓ Use on-demand scanners for second opinions, not bloatware.



RGE GOLDEN RULE: Keep Microsoft Defender active, use Malwarebytes Free for occasional second opinions, and don't get trapped by scare-tactic renewal warnings.

RED GLEN ELECTRONICS
"A Boomer Helping Fellow Boomers"

RGE



RGE PHILOSOPHY
Teacher first. Technician second.
People always.

Learn. Explore. Don't Fear Windows.

• Practical Tech Solutions

• Honest Advice

• Simplifying Technology

■ [1. ESSENTIALS] - Everyday Tasks ■ [2. USEFUL SKILLS] - Do More ■ [3. ADVANCED / PITFALLS] - Control ⌚ Estimated Reading Time: 4 Minutes