

# How do I disable my antivirus program in Windows?

**Tip:** This document contains information about temporarily disabling an antivirus program, not [how to uninstall an antivirus or other program in Windows](#).

The answer to this question depends on the antivirus program that is installed on your computer. However, all antivirus protection programs can be temporarily disabled by following the steps below.

1. Locate the antivirus protection program icon on the [Windows Notification area](#). Below are some examples of what your program icon may look like.



[McAfee](#), [Norton](#), and [AVG](#) examples.

2. Once the antivirus icon has been located right-click the icon and select disable, stop, or something similar. In some cases you may need to launch or open the program control center and disable the program from the menu that appears.

If following the above recommendations do not help you with disabling your antivirus scanner you can also boot into Safe Mode, which will not load any third-party programs including the antivirus program. This is helpful for times you're concerned about the antivirus program interrupting a program during an install.

## Antivirus Programs and Companies



## Disable antivirus software

Windows 7

Antivirus software can help protect your computer against viruses and other security threats. In most cases, you shouldn't disable your antivirus software. If you have to temporarily disable it to install other software, you should re-enable it as soon as you're done. If you're connected to the Internet or a network while your antivirus software is disabled, your computer is vulnerable to attacks.

Windows doesn't come with antivirus software, but can often detect and monitor antivirus software that was installed by you or your computer manufacturer. The status of your antivirus software is typically displayed in Action Center.

1. Open Action Center by clicking the **Start** button , clicking **Control Panel**, and then, under **System and Security**, clicking **Review your computer's status**.
2. Click the arrow button  next to **Security** to expand the section.  
If Windows can detect your antivirus software, it's listed under **Virus protection**.
3. If the software is on, check the Help that came with the software for information on disabling it.

Windows doesn't detect all antivirus software, and some antivirus software doesn't report its status to Windows. If your antivirus software isn't displayed in Action Center and you're not sure how to find it, try any of the following:

- Type the name of the software or the publisher in the search box on the Start menu.
- Look for your antivirus program's icon in the notification area of the taskbar.