

Setup an AI-Free Browser

Digital Wellness Series | Updated September 2026

A step-by-step Firefox setup that removes generative-AI browser features and keeps AI out of your default search experience.

What “AI-free” means in this guide

This setup blocks Firefox’s current and future generative-AI enhancements, removes its AI chatbot entry point, and uses a search experience with AI features turned off. It does not guarantee that every website you visit avoids AI internally, and it does not remove older machine-learning systems such as ranking or personalization that may operate behind the scenes.

The recommended setup

Layer	Use	Why
Browser	Firefox 148 or later	Includes a single control to block current and future AI enhancements.
Browser AI	Block AI enhancements: ON	Hides generative-AI features, prompts, and related entry points.
Search	DuckDuckGo No-AI Search	Turns off Duck.ai and Search Assist and filters AI-generated images by default.
Extensions	No AI-enabled add-ons	Firefox’s AI switch cannot stop an extension from calling an outside AI service.

Time needed: about 5–10 minutes. These instructions are for desktop Firefox on macOS, Windows, or Linux.

1. Install or update Firefox (2 minutes)

1

Install Firefox if you do not already have it.

Download it from Mozilla rather than from a third-party download site.
mozilla.org/firefox

2

Make sure Firefox is current.

Menu → Help → About Firefox

Open the Firefox menu, choose Help, then About Firefox. Firefox checks for updates automatically; restart if prompted.

Minimum version

Firefox AI Controls were introduced in Firefox 148. If you do not see “AI Controls” in Settings, update Firefox first.

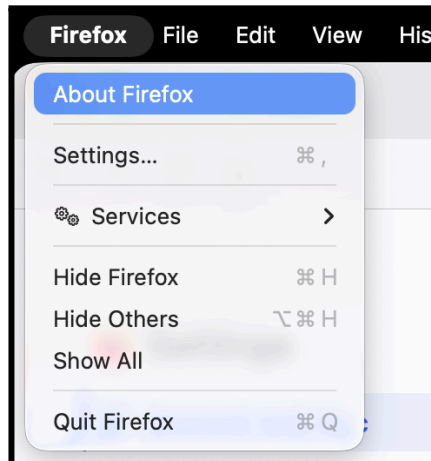
2. Block Firefox AI enhancements (1 minute)

This is the key step. Firefox can block its current and future generative-AI enhancements with one setting.

1

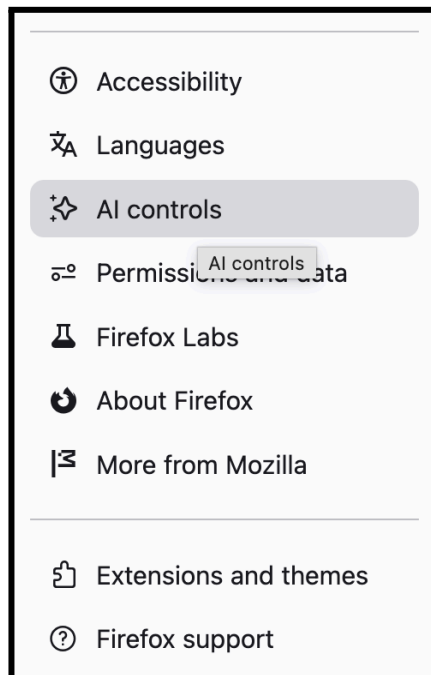
Open Firefox Settings.

Firefox → Settings



2

Select AI Controls in the left sidebar.



Turn on Block AI enhancements.

AI Controls → Block AI enhancements → ON

Leave this switch on. Firefox says this prevents current and future AI features from appearing and also suppresses related promotional pop-ups.

AI controls

You always have a choice in Firefox, including whether to use features enhanced with AI. More controls coming soon. [Learn more](#)

Block AI enhancements

Blocking means you won't see new or current AI enhancements in Firefox, or pop-ups about them. [Get more details](#) about what's included and how to control traditional machine learning features, like search suggestions and recommendations.

☒

On-device AI

These use small AI models that download to your device if you use the feature. This approach helps protect your privacy. [Learn more](#)

Translations

Seamlessly browse the web in your preferred language. [More translations settings](#)

Available

Image alt text in Firefox PDF viewer

When you add images to PDFs, this adds descriptions to make them accessible. [Learn more](#)

Available

Tab group suggestions

Get suggestions to name and organize your tabs. [Learn more](#)

Available

Key points in link previews

See a quick summary before opening a link. [Learn more](#)

Available

AI chatbot providers in sidebar

Keep a chatbot in view as you browse. Choose from Anthropic Claude, ChatGPT, Copilot, Google Gemini, and Mistral Vibe. [Learn more](#)

Chatbot in sidebar

Available

What the options mean:

- Available:** You'll see the feature and can use it.
- Enabled:** You've opted in to use the feature.
- Blocked:** You won't see and can't use the feature. For on-device AI, any models already downloaded are removed.

ⓘ Block AI enhancements?

You won't see new or current AI enhancements in Firefox, or pop-ups about them. Afterwards, you can unblock anything you want to keep using.

What will be blocked:

- Translations
- Image alt text in Firefox PDF viewer
- Tab group suggestions
- Key points in link previews
- Smart Window
- Chatbot providers in sidebar

Blocking also affects extensions that use AI provided by Firefox.

[Learn more](#)

Cancel

Block

Block AI enhancements

Blocking means you won't see new or current AI enhancements in Firefox, or pop-ups about them. [Get more details](#) about what's included and how to control traditional machine learning features, like search suggestions and recommendations.



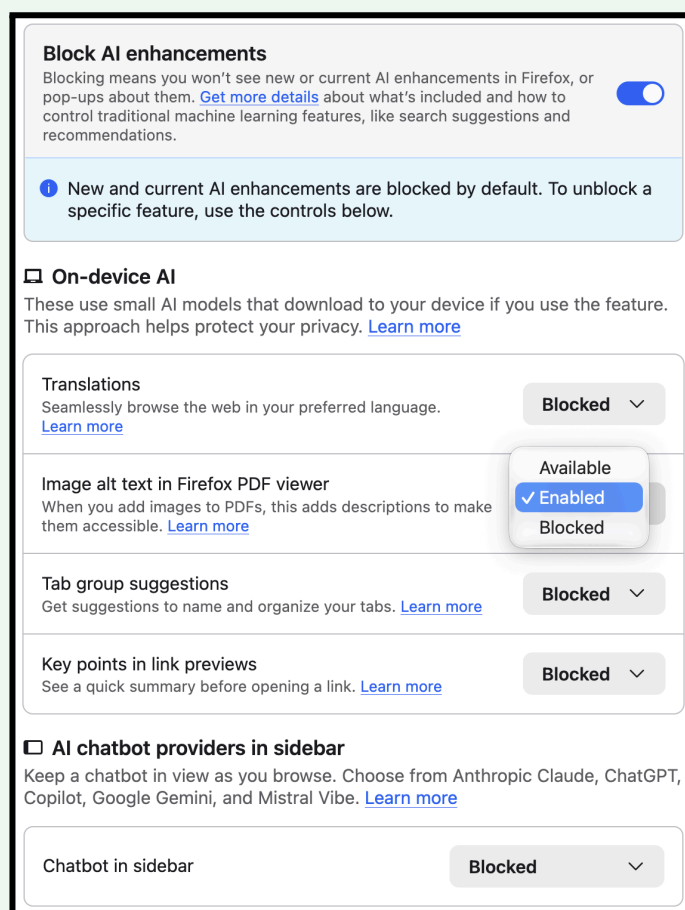
i New and current AI enhancements are blocked by default. To unblock a specific feature, use the controls below.

What this blocks

- Firefox Translations that use generative AI.
- AI-generated alt-text suggestions for images added to PDFs.
- AI-enhanced tab group names and related-tab suggestions.
- AI-generated key points in link previews.
- The AI chatbot in the Firefox sidebar.

Accessibility note

Blocking all AI enhancements also blocks Firefox's AI-assisted PDF alt-text suggestions. If you create accessible PDFs and rely on that feature, you can keep the global block on and individually set that one feature to Available or Enabled.



3. Use a No-AI search experience (2 minutes)

Blocking browser AI does not automatically remove AI from search engines. For the cleanest setup, use DuckDuckGo's dedicated No-AI Search.

Option A — Recommended: DuckDuckGo No-AI Search extension

Open DuckDuckGo's No-AI Search help page.

Use the official "Get the No-AI Search extension for Firefox" link on that page.

[DuckDuckGo: About noai.duckduckgo.com](https://duckduckgo.com/about-noai)

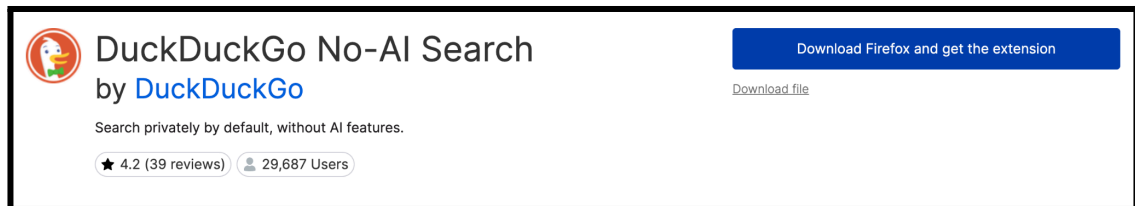
1

We also offer No-AI browser extensions for Chrome and Firefox that set your default search to the DuckDuckGo AI-free experience and filter out AI-generated images from search results.

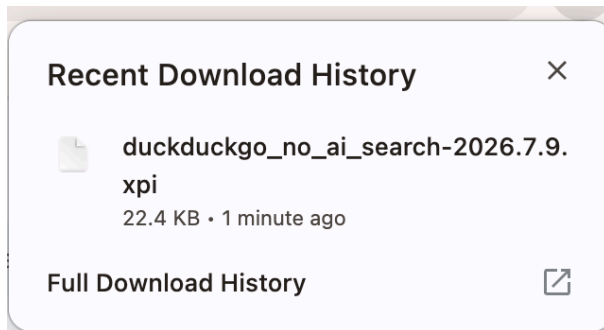
- [Get the No-AI Search extension for Firefox](#)
- [Get the No-AI Search extension for Chrome](#)

Install the official No-AI Search extension for Firefox.

DuckDuckGo says this sets your default search to its AI-free experience and filters AI-generated images from search results. If you already have Firefox installed, skip the blue button and click on “Download File” below it.

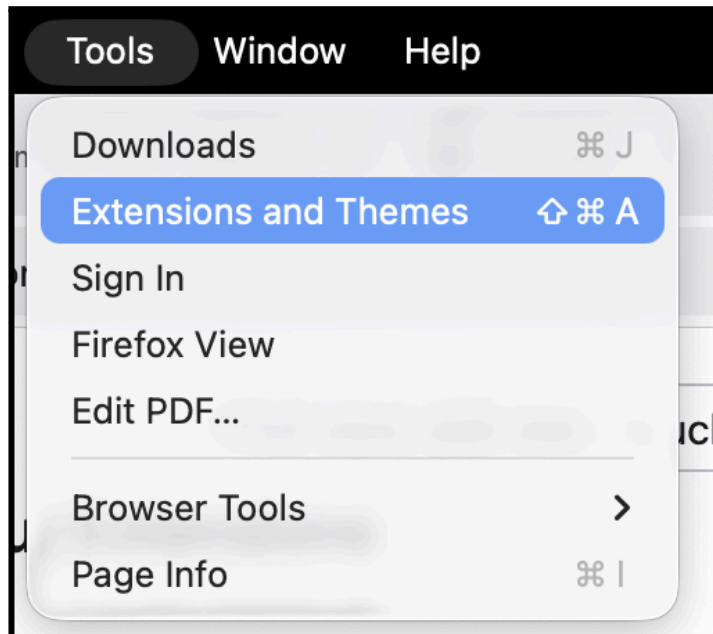


Next, you will see the extension file in your downloads.



2

Go back to FireFox, and click on Tools>Extensions and Themes in the menu bar:



Drag and drop your downloaded file here. There's no need to search for this since you already downloaded it. Accept the permissions and click the option to include in private mode if you want to allow that.

Add DuckDuckGo No-AI Search

Required permissions:

- Access your data for sites in duckduckgo.com domains
- Block content on any page
- Access browser tabs

Data collection:

- The developer says this extension doesn't require data collection.

Optional settings:

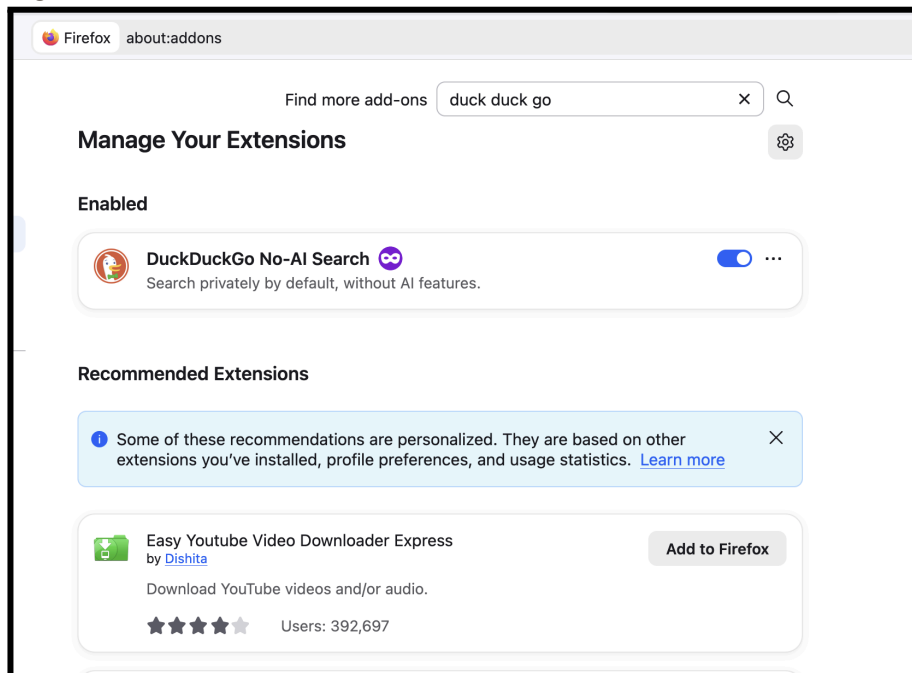
- ☐ Allow extension to run in private windows

[Learn more](#)

Cancel

Add

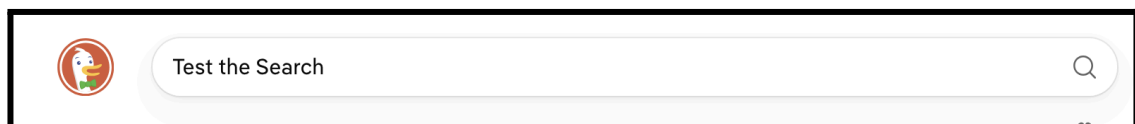
You will see that it is enabled and you will be asked if this should be your default search engine.



Test it.

Search from Firefox's address bar. Your results should use DuckDuckGo's No-AI Search experience.

3



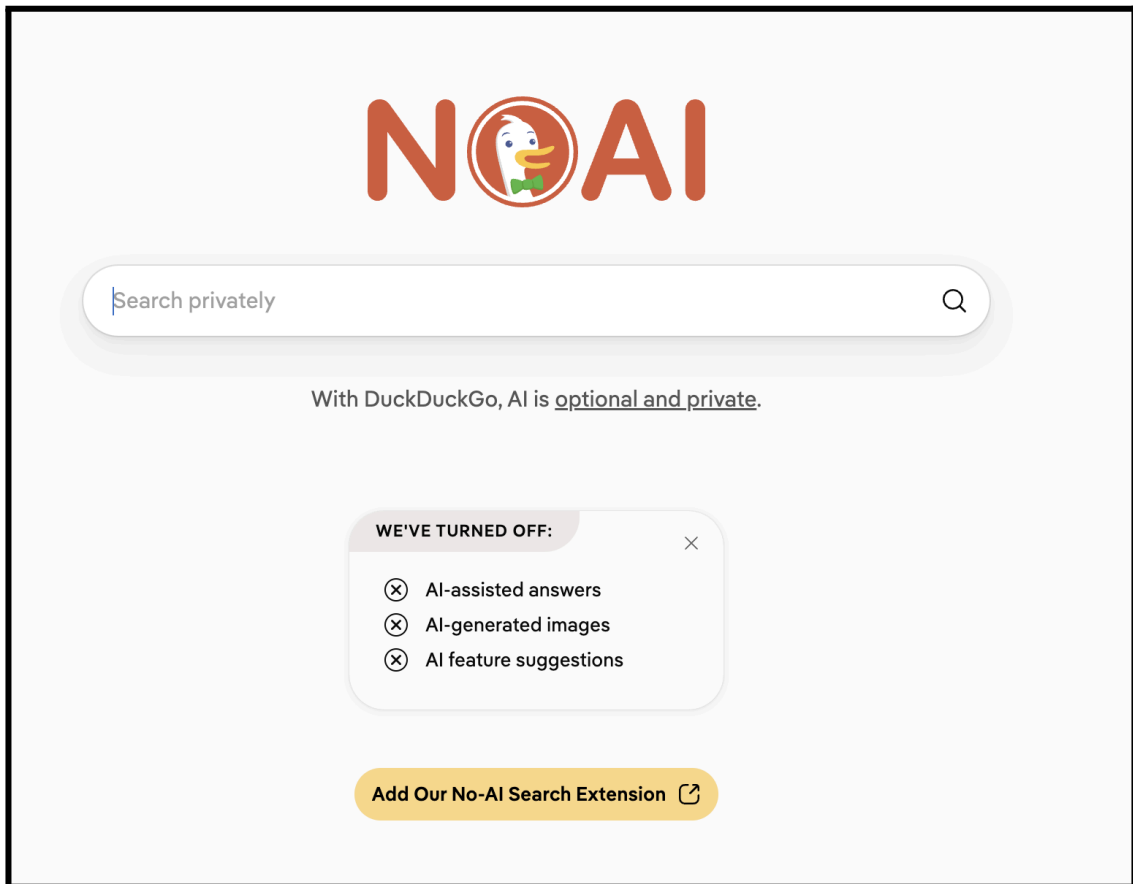
Option B — No extension: use the No-AI site directly

Open noai.duckduckgo.com.

Bookmark it and use it whenever you search.

noai.duckduckgo.com

1



2

If you use regular DuckDuckGo instead, turn its AI features off.

Search Settings → AI Features

In DuckDuckGo Search Settings, open AI Features, turn off Duck.ai, set Search Assist to Never, then Save and Exit.

4. Remove AI-enabled browser extensions (1 minute)

Firefox's "Block AI enhancements" switch controls Firefox features, not every add-on. An extension can still send content to an outside AI service on its own.

1

Open Add-ons and themes.

Menu → Extensions and Themes

2

Review the installed extensions list.

Remove or disable extensions that advertise AI writing, summarizing, search, assistants, copilots, meeting notes, page chat, or automatic content generation.

3

Keep the extension list small.

For an AI-free profile, install only extensions you understand and actually need.

Managed devices

If Firefox or its extensions are managed by your organization, some settings may be locked. Do not bypass management controls; ask your local IT team if a required setting is unavailable.

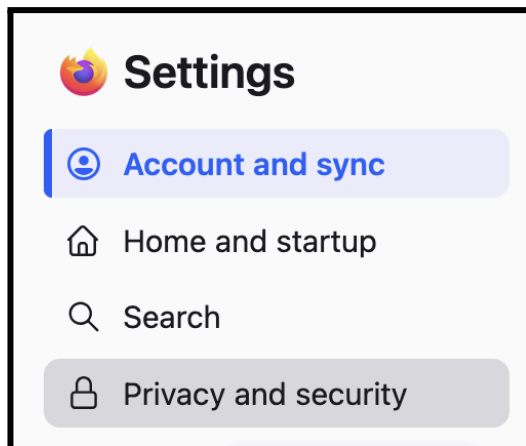
5. Optional: reduce recommendations and data collection (2 minutes)

This section is not required to block generative AI. It is included for people who want a quieter, less personalized browser.

1

Open Firefox privacy/data settings.

Settings → Privacy & Security



Review Firefox Data Collection and Use.

You can turn off technical and interaction data, personalized extension recommendations, and feature studies if you do not want to participate in them. Firefox documents these controls separately from its AI settings.

Additional protections

- ☒ Tell websites not to sell or share my data [Learn more](#)
- ☒ Suggest Firefox Relay email masks
Hides your real email address to protect your inbox from spam. [Learn more](#)

History

Choose what you want Firefox to remember when you close the browser.

History won't be saved.

Firefox clears cookies and site data from your session when you close the browser.

- ☐ Remember history
- ☐ Customize history

Choose what you want Firefox to remember >

- ☒ Never remember history
Every window acts like a private window. When on, extensions need to be allowed.

Privacy panel settings

Get help protecting your info online in Firefox. [Learn more](#)

- ☒ Show breach messages

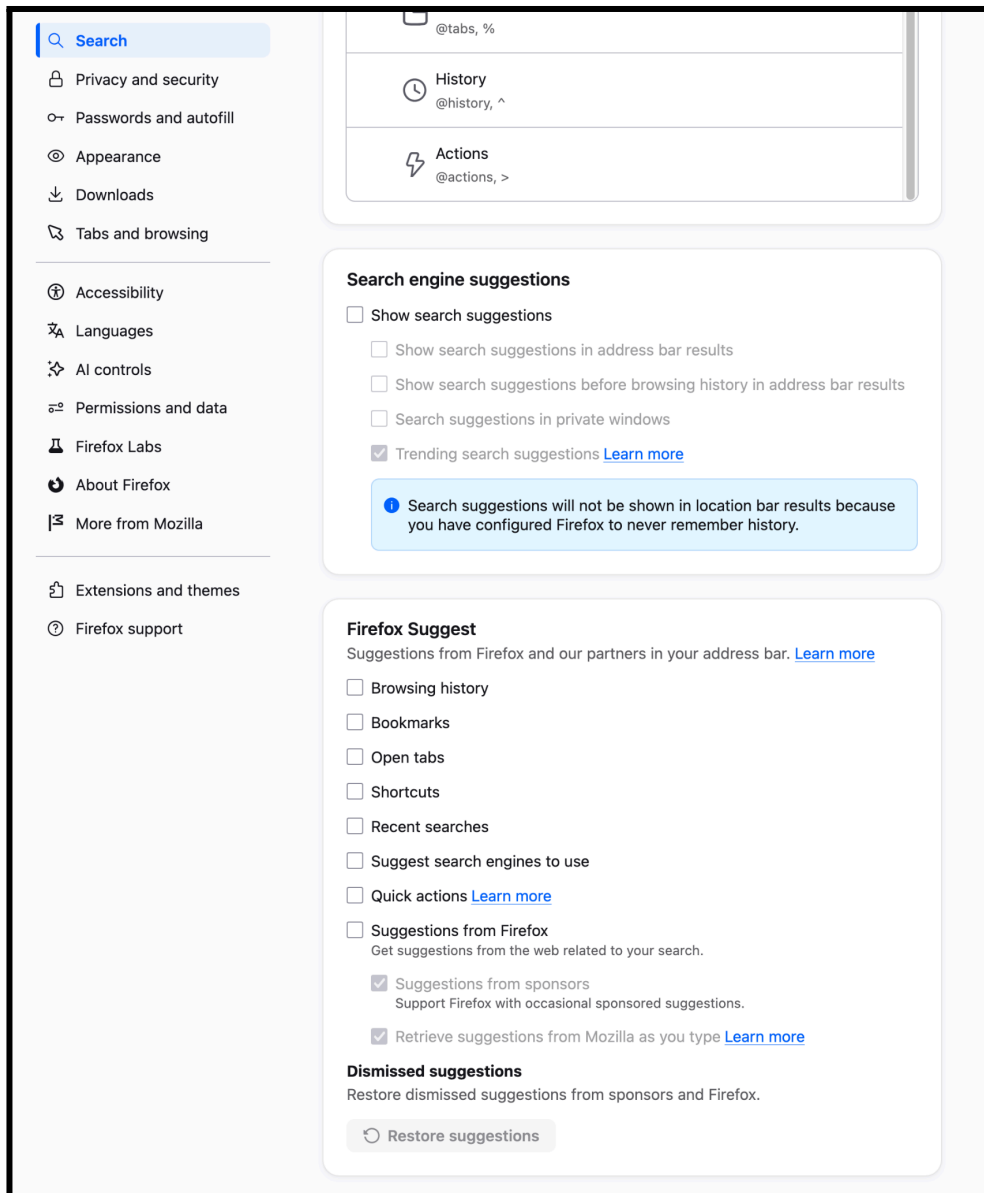
Deceptive content and dangerous software protection

Dangerous sites and downloads can put your data and device at risk. Firefox automatically blocks them, and warns you about risky or unwanted software.

- ☒ Block dangerous and deceptive content [Learn more](#)
 - ☒ Block dangerous downloads
 - ☒ Warn you about unwanted and uncommon software

Review address-bar and sponsored recommendations.

Disable recommendation sources you do not want. This is a preference choice, not an AI requirement. To do this, go to **Settings → Search**



60-second verification checklist

- [] Firefox is version 148 or later.
- [] Settings → AI Controls shows “Block AI enhancements” turned ON.
- [] The Firefox sidebar does not offer an AI chatbot.
- [] Searches use noai.duckduckgo.com or DuckDuckGo with Duck.ai OFF and Search Assist set to Never.
- [] No installed extension provides an AI assistant, summarizer, writer, or page-chat feature.

If all five boxes are checked

You have a practical AI-free browsing profile: no generative-AI features in Firefox itself, no AI in the default search experience, and no obvious AI extension running in the browser.

What this setup cannot control

- A website may use AI or machine learning on its own servers even when the browser shows no AI feature.
- A site can still place its own chatbot, recommender, or AI-generated content on a page.
- Firefox's AI Controls do not disable older machine-learning techniques used for classification, ranking, personalization, autocorrect, or similar functions.
- Logging into a service can restore that service's own preferences and AI features, independent of Firefox.

Practical rule: Treat the browser as AI-free when you have removed AI from the browser interface, search defaults, and extensions. Treat individual websites separately.

Official sources

- [Mozilla Support — Block generative AI features with Firefox AI controls](#)
- [Mozilla — How to turn off AI features in Firefox](#)
- [Mozilla Support — Update Firefox to the latest release](#)
- [DuckDuckGo — About noai.duckduckgo.com](#)
- [DuckDuckGo — Opting out of AI features](#)
- [Mozilla Support — Manage Firefox data collection and privacy settings](#)

Last verified: September 10, 2026