

The internet can be a tricky place with a lot of content that might not be suitable for everyone. Whether you're looking to protect yourself from the dark side of the internet or don't want your kids to end up scrolling through websites unsuitable for their age, you can protect yourself and your kids by simply blocking such websites on Safari.



Keep reading, and we'll show you how to block websites in Safari on an iPhone, iPad, and Mac in different ways. Without much ado, let's jump into it.

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Why block websites on Safari?

There are various reasons why blocking certain websites could be actually good for you. Here are a few common ones.

1. Parental control

- **Protecting your kids:** You can block certain websites to [keep your children away from inappropriate and sensitive content](#) on the internet.
- **Managing your time more efficiently:** By blocking distracting websites, you can help your kids focus better on studying, their hobbies, or other important activities.

2. Personal productivity

- **Bid goodbye to distractions:** You can block social media or gaming sites to [stay focused on work or study](#), as these sites can end up consuming a significant portion of your time.
- **Unfriend procrastination:** It can be challenging to stay focused, but blocking distracting websites can really help. By doing so, you spend less time browsing aimlessly and more time on what you need to do.

3. Security and privacy

- **Protect your devices from malware:** People with access to your device might try to download harmful software like viruses or spyware. To protect yourself, block websites that offer pirated content, as these often distribute malware.
- **Avoiding phishing:** Fake websites that mimic real ones can steal your personal information. If a site seems suspicious, block it to keep your information safe.

Tip

I also suggest getting an [antivirus for your iPhone and iPad](#), or installing a free or paid [antivirus software on your Mac](#) to enhance its security.

4. Network restrictions

- **Company rules:** In your workplace, you might need to block certain websites to comply with company policies or security rules. This helps you focus better on work.
- **School rules:** Schools often block websites that are inappropriate or distracting for students. If you run a school or have a student at home, consider blocking some websites to avoid exposure to harmful content.

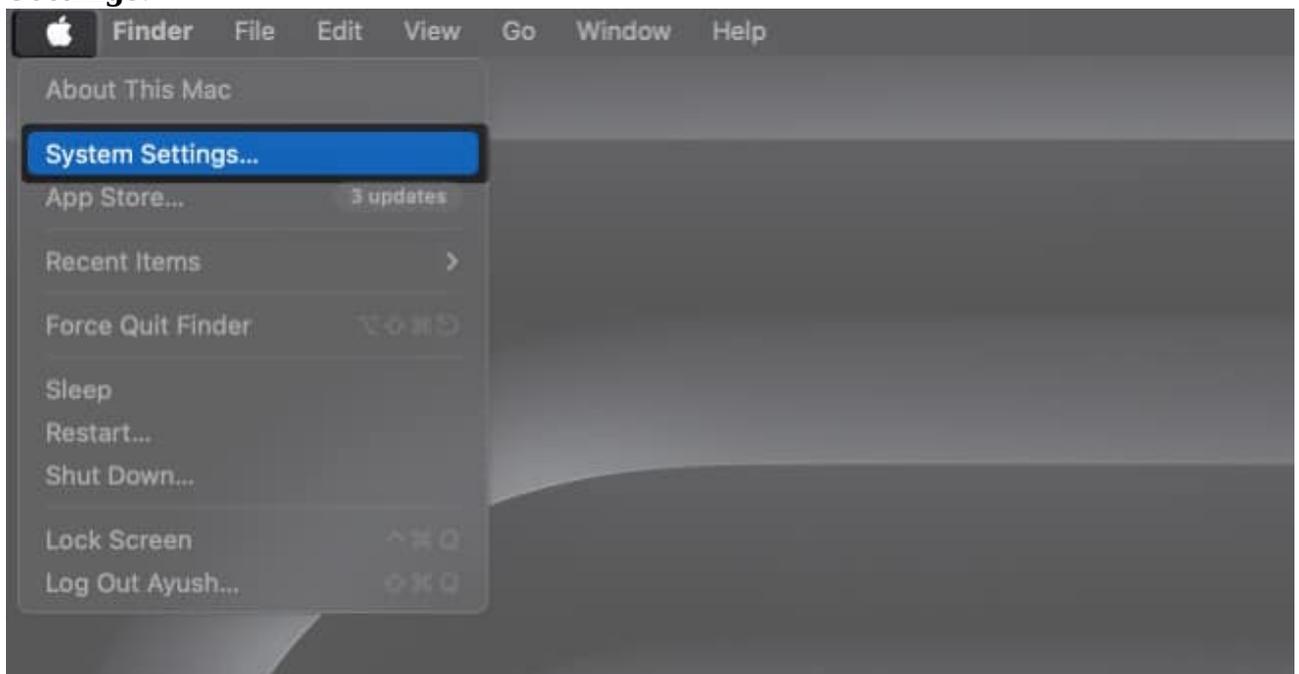
How to block websites in Safari on a Mac

If your child loves using a Mac, and you can't find a better way to protect them from accessing select websites, you can use any of the following two ways to block websites in Safari on your Mac.

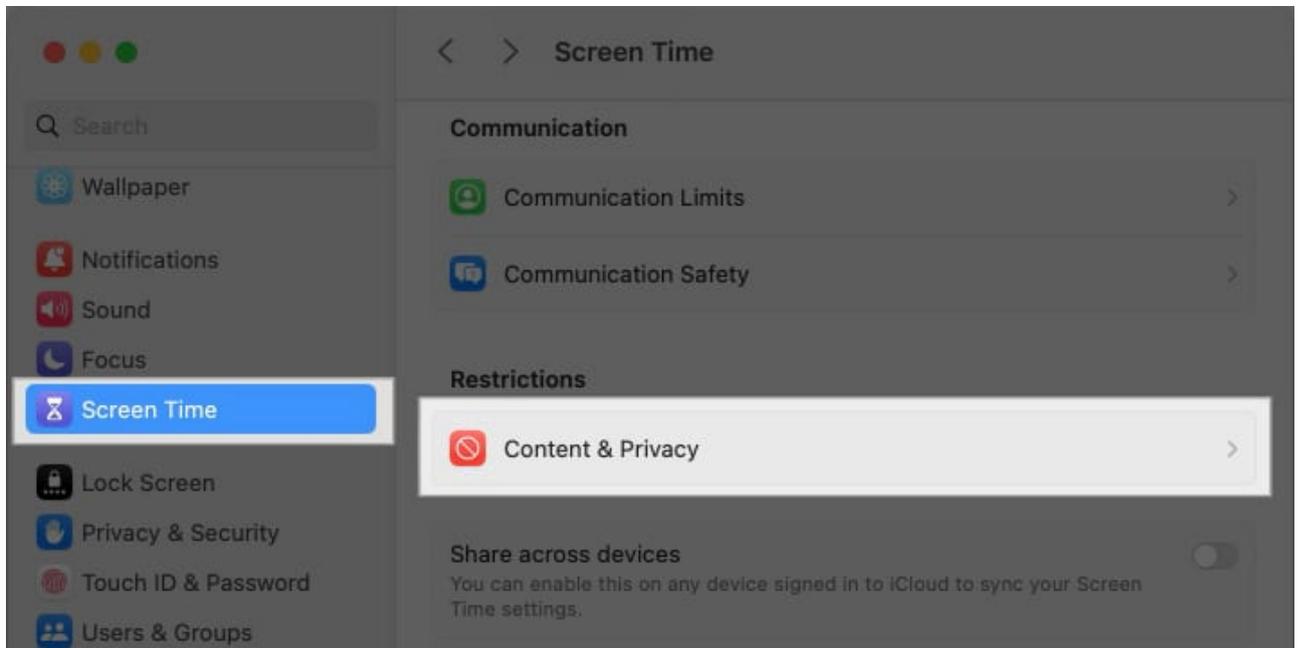
How to block websites in Safari on a Mac using Screen Time

Screen Time is one of the easiest ways to block certain websites on a Mac. Just so you know, you can also whitelist select websites on Mac.

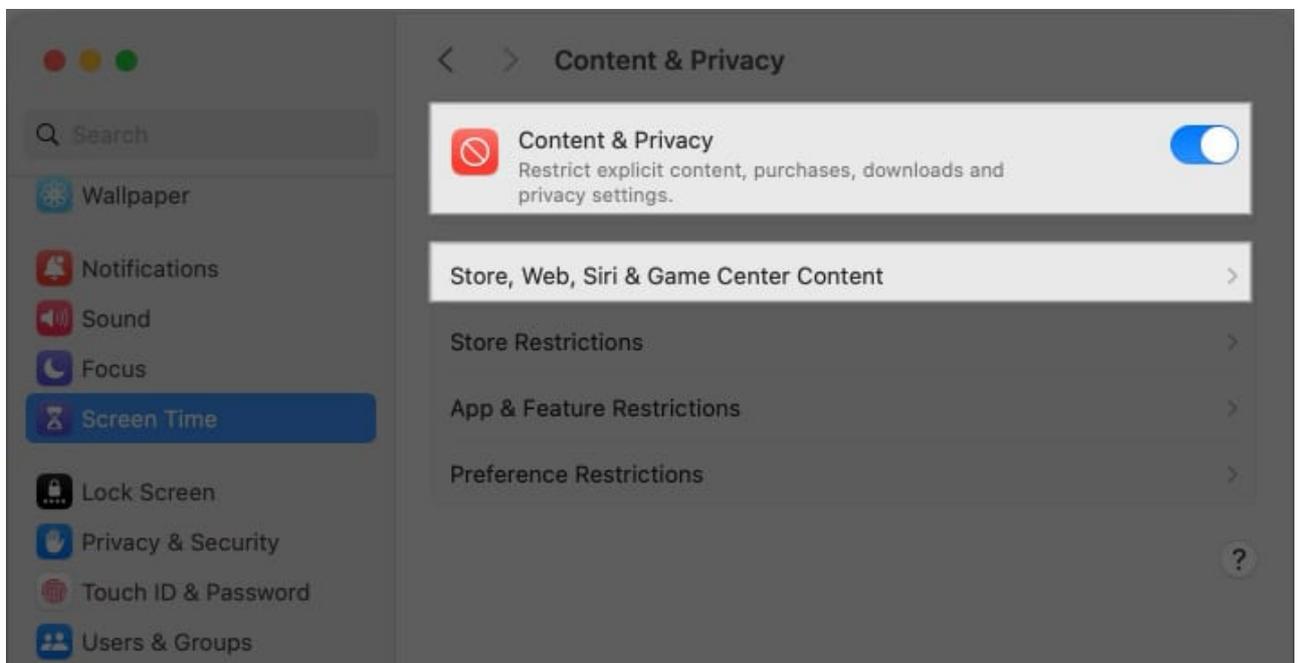
1. Click the Apple menu icon in the top-left corner of the screen and select **System Settings**.



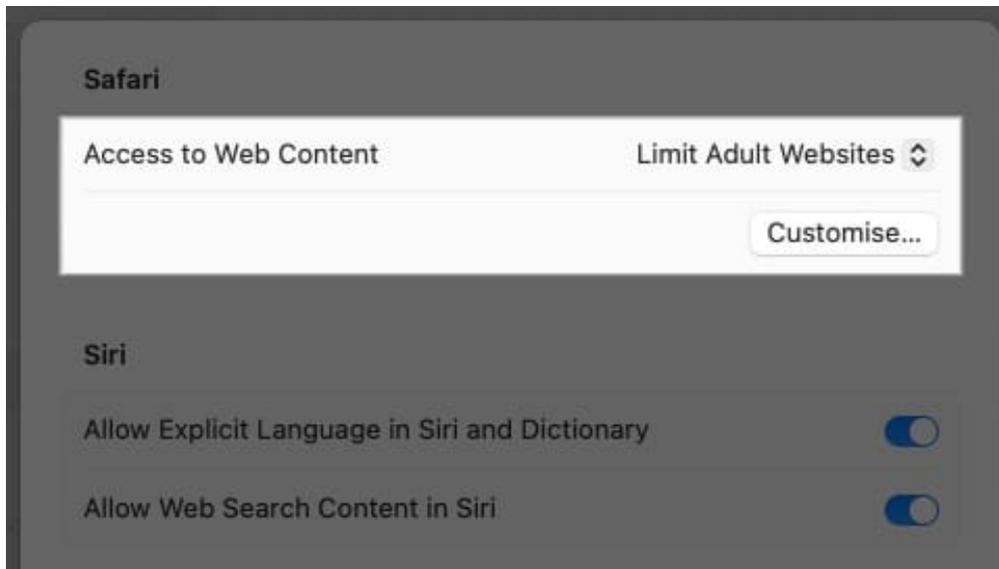
2. Go to **Screen Time > Content & Privacy**.



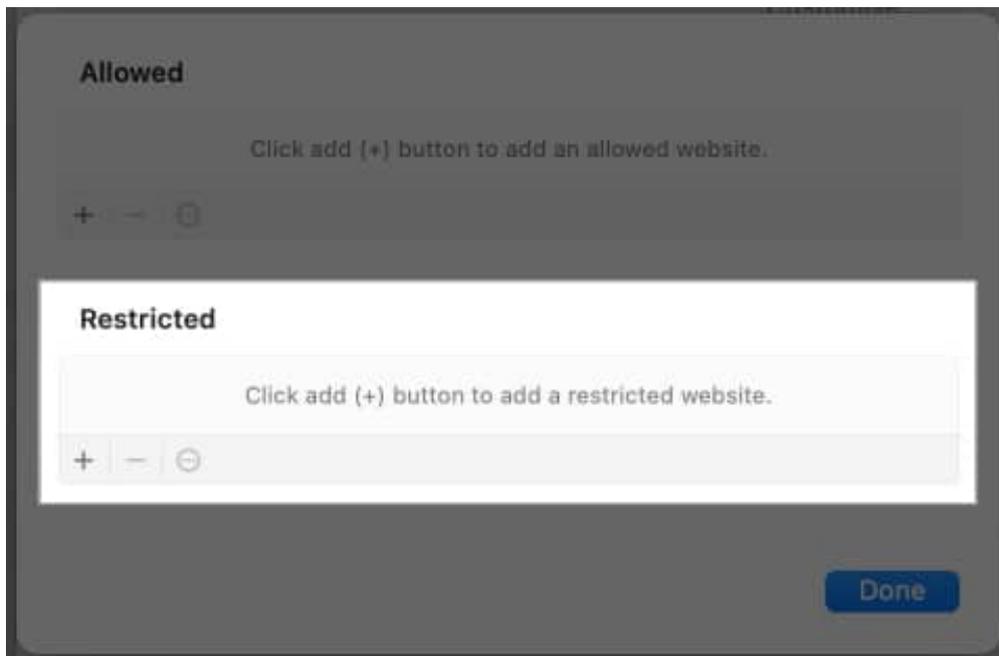
3. Turn on the **Content & Privacy** toggle.
4. Select **Store, Web, Siri & Game Center Content**.



5. Then, click **Limit Adult Websites** from the drop-down menu.



6. Click **Customize** and use the **+** button to add websites you want to block in the **Restricted** section.



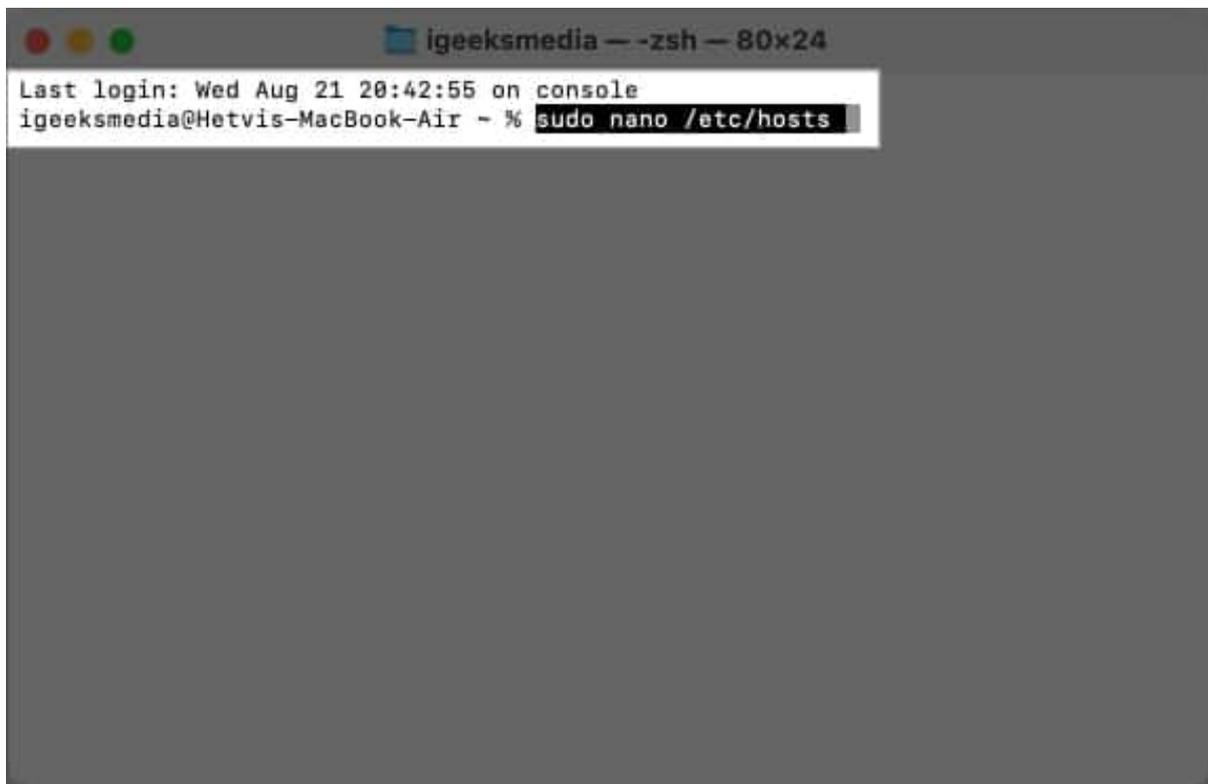
Bonus Tip

You can whitelist certain websites by adding them to the **Allowed** section using the same steps.

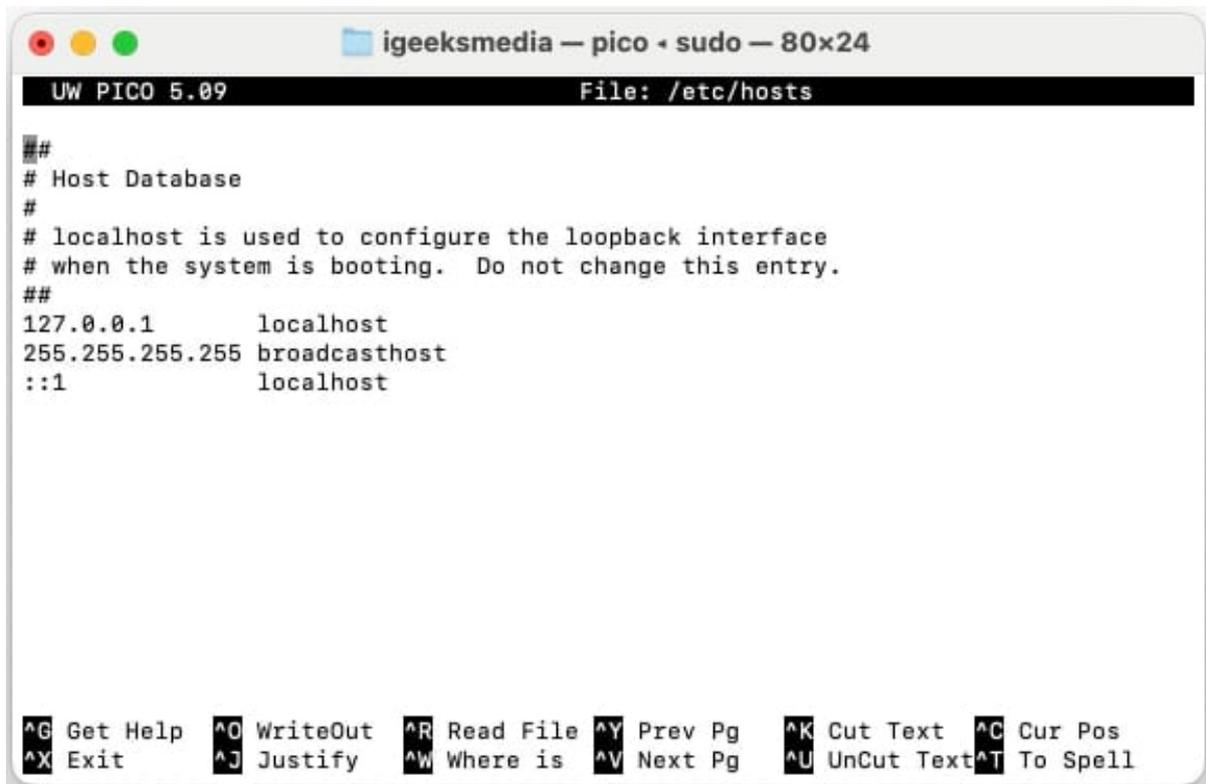
How to block websites in Safari on a Mac using Terminal

Although blocking websites [using Screen Time on a Mac](#) is effective, if you're seeking a more permanent solution that's harder to bypass, Terminal might be your answer. It works by making changes directly to your Mac's hosts file, which is more robust than the Screen Time approach.

1. Press **Command + Space** to bring up Spotlight Search, type **Terminal** and hit **Return**.
2. In the Terminal window, type or paste **sudo nano /etc/hosts** and press **Return**.



3. If asked, type your Mac's user password and hit **Return**.
4. Once the hosts file is open, use the down arrow key on your keyboard to scroll to the bottom of the file. You'll see the line **127.0.0.1 localhost**.



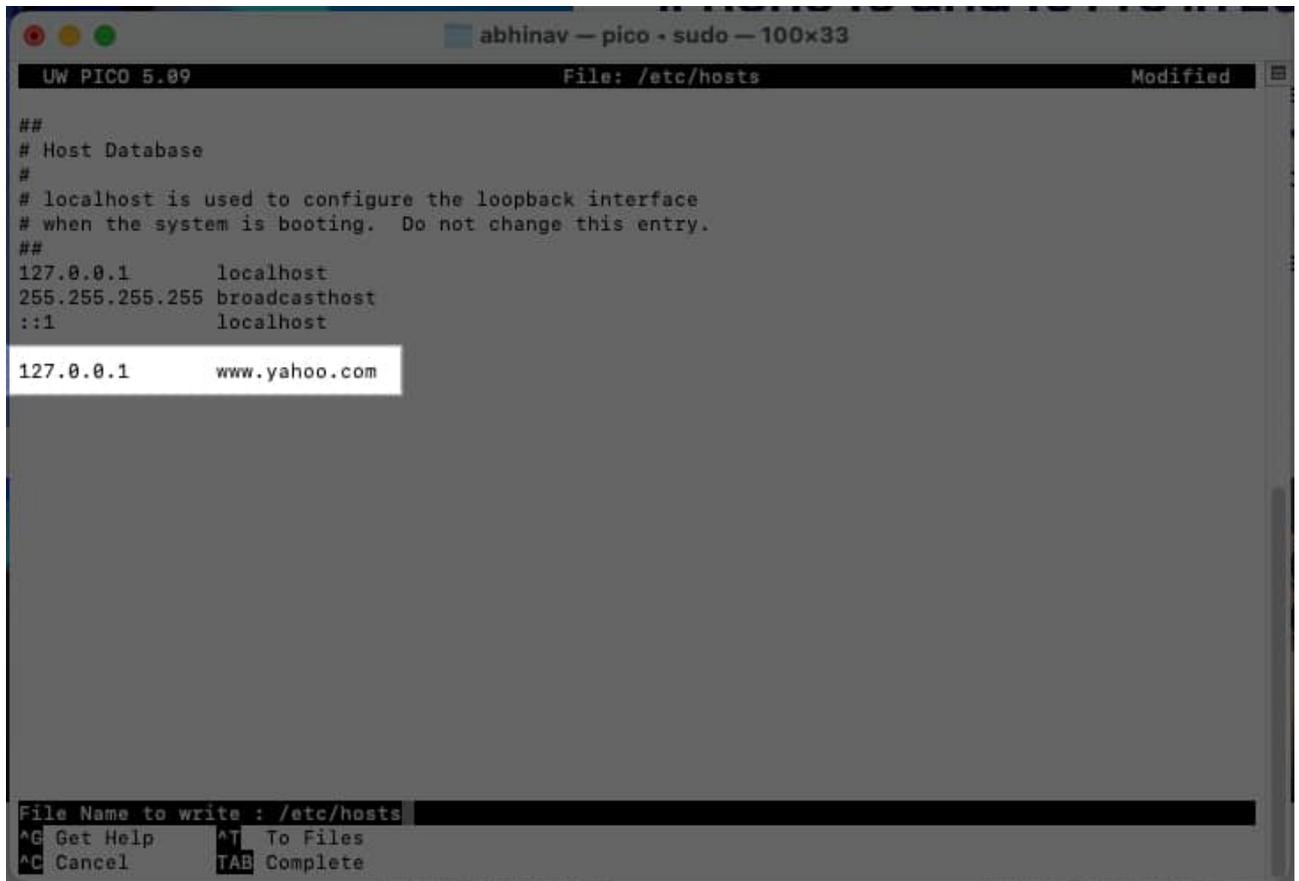
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "igeeksmidia — pico • sudo — 80x24". The editor displays the contents of the /etc/hosts file. The text is as follows:

```
UW PICO 5.09                               File: /etc/hosts
##
# Host Database
#
# localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
# when the system is booting. Do not change this entry.
##
127.0.0.1      localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
::1           localhost
```

At the bottom of the window, there is a status bar with the following keyboard shortcuts:

```
^G Get Help   ^O WriteOut   ^R Read File  ^Y Prev Pg   ^K Cut Text   ^C Cur Pos
^X Exit       ^J Justify    ^W Where is   ^V Next Pg   ^U UnCut Text ^T To Spell
```

5. Below the 127.0.0.1 localhost and a few other lines, type **127.0.0.1**, press the **Tab** key, then type the URL of the website you want to block, such as www.yahoo.com.



```
abhinav — pico - sudo — 100x33
UW PICO 5.09 File: /etc/hosts Modified
##
# Host Database
#
# localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
# when the system is booting. Do not change this entry.
##
127.0.0.1    localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
::1        localhost
127.0.0.1    www.yahoo.com

File Name to write: /etc/hosts
^G Get Help      ^T To Files
^C Cancel        TAB Complete
```

6. Once you're done adding the website, press **Command + O**, then hit **Return**.
7. Now press **Control + X** to save the changes and exit the file
8. Next, you'll need to [clear the DNS cache](#) to ensure our changes take effect. For that, type **sudo dscacheutil -flushcache** in the Terminal and hit **Return**.

Finally, you can check whether or not the website is blocked. Simply open your web browser and try visiting the blocked website. You should see a message like "Safari Can't Connect to the Server," confirming that the block is in place.

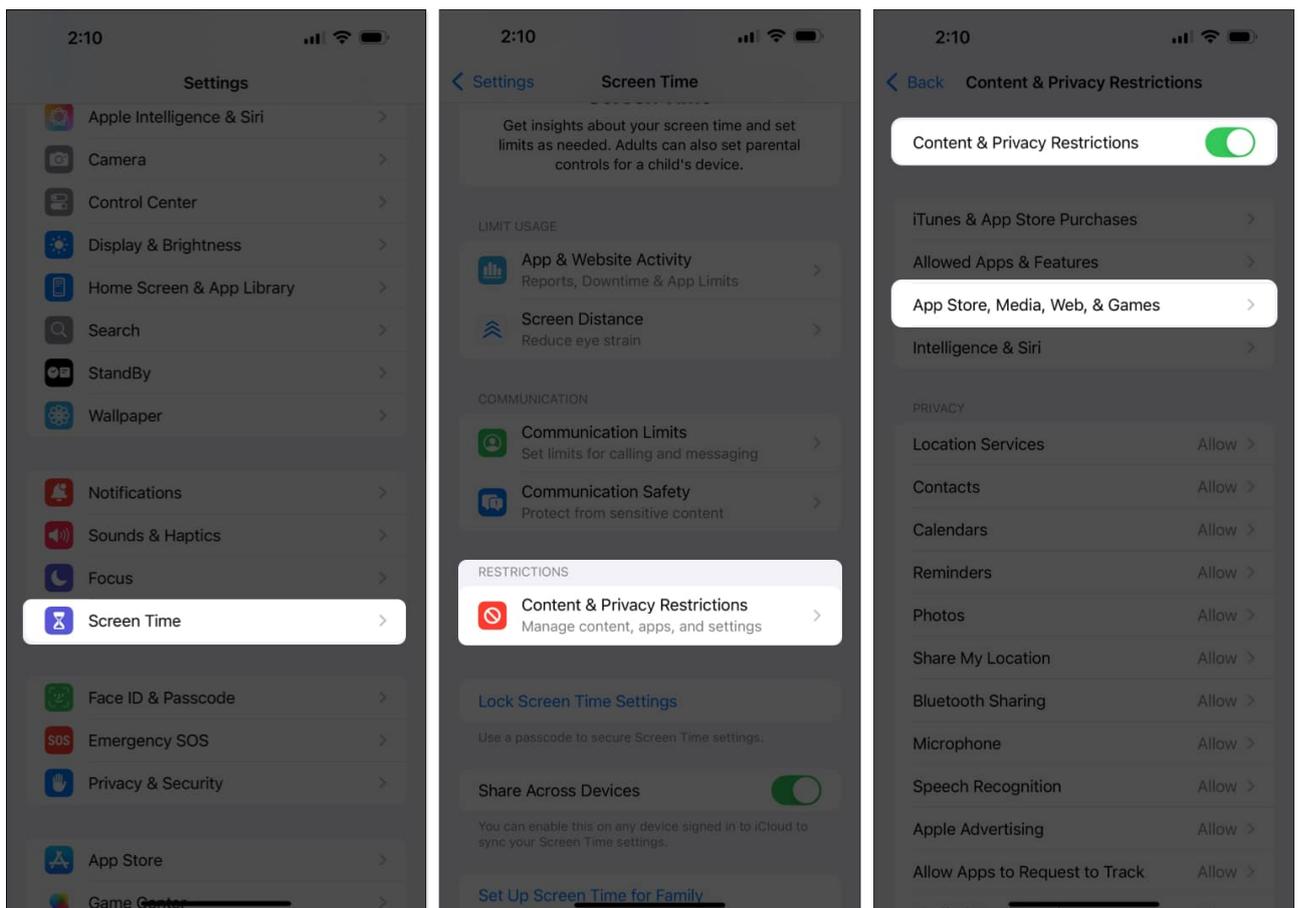
How to block websites in Safari on an iPhone or iPad

Blocking websites on an iPhone or iPad is easy, and there are multiple ways to do this.

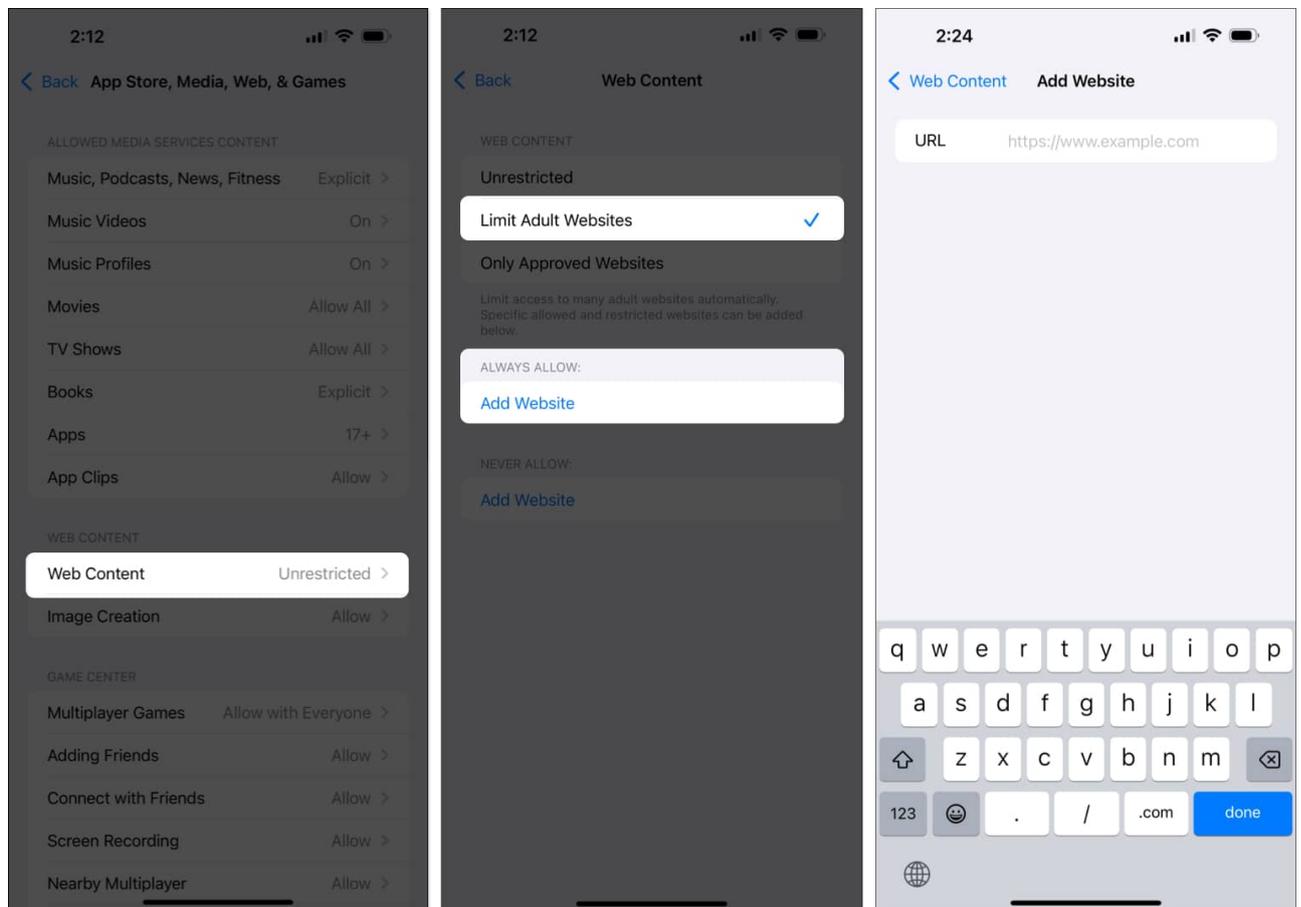
How to block access to select websites on an iPhone or iPad

Remember the Screen Time method on the Mac? It follows the same footsteps on the iPhone and iPad, as well. Just like that, it can help you block select websites on iPhones and iPads.

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Select **Screen Time**.
3. Scroll down and tap **Content & Privacy Restrictions**.
4. Toggle on **Content & Privacy Restrictions** and then select **App Store, Media, Web, & Games**.



5. Tap **Web Content**, and select **Limit Adult Websites**.
6. To block a specific website, tap **Add Website** under the **Never Allow** section.



To check whether it's working, try visiting the website.

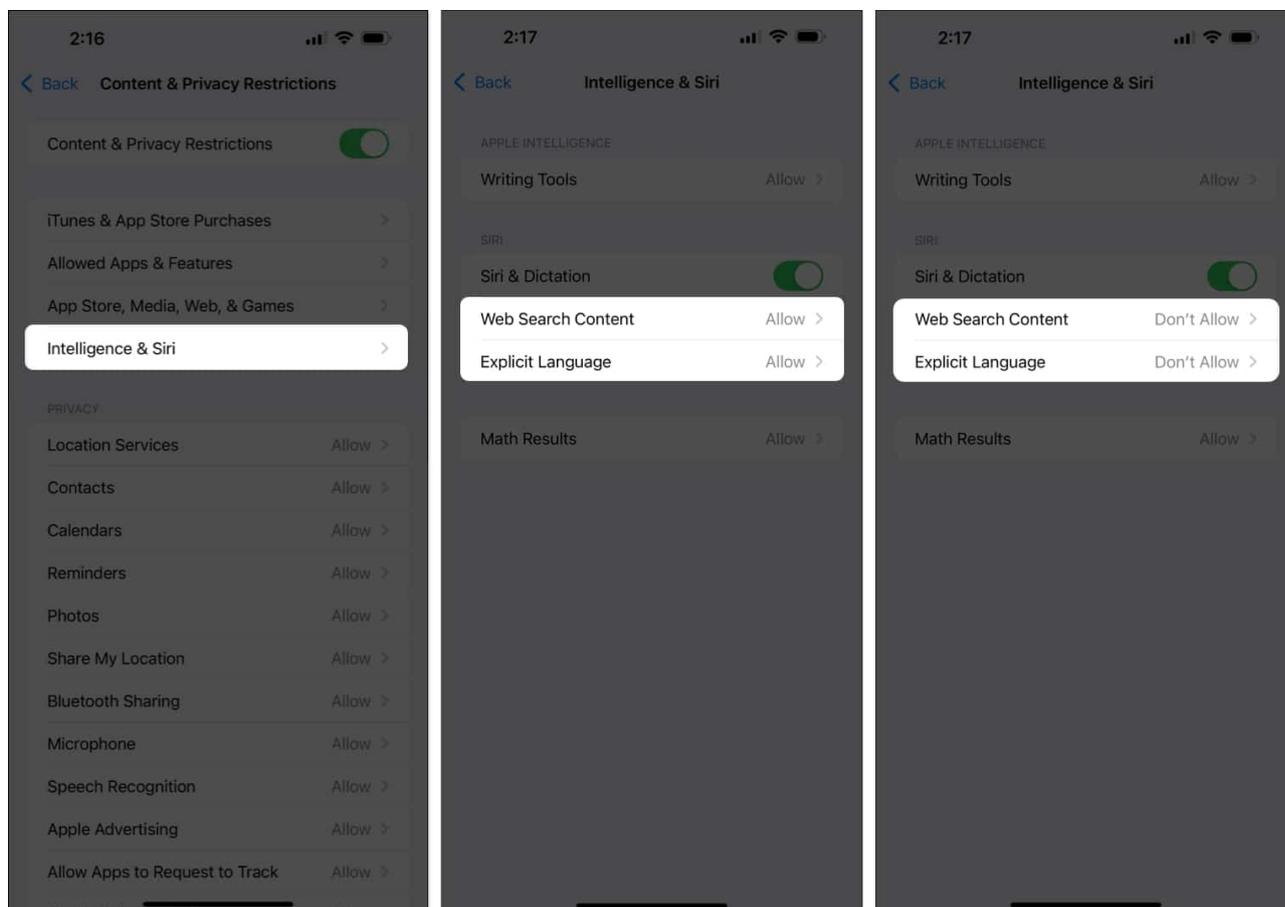
Tip

You can also [block websites from tracking you on your iOS / iPadOS devices](#).

How to restrict explicit language content on an iPhone or iPad

Blocking websites is a good start, but kids might still find other sites with similar content. To handle this, you need to filter out explicit searches and language. This is easy to set up in the Settings.

1. Open **Settings**.
2. Go to **Screen Time** → **Content & Privacy Restrictions**. Toggle on **Content & Privacy Restrictions** toggle if it isn't already.
3. Choose **Intelligence & Siri**.
4. In the **Siri** section, you'll find **Web Search Content** and **Explicit Language**. Set both to **Don't Allow**.



Note

With this feature turned, even if someone tries to search for explicit content, they won't be able to delete the history.

Using third-party apps to block websites on Safari

While your iPhone, iPad, and Mac can block websites using Screen Time or Terminal (on Mac), several third-party apps do the job with some additional perks, such as parent control and monitoring. If you're interested in that, here are some popular options.

1. Freedom

Freedom is one of the popular apps for blocking websites. It works across Mac, iPhone and iPad, allowing you to create customizable block lists, set schedules, and block distracting sites.

How to use Freedom on your iPhone, iPad, or Mac:

1. Download and install the [Freedom app](#) from the App Store (on iPhone or iPad) or from their [website](#) (for Mac).
2. Create an account and set up your device.
3. Once you're in, create a new session, then add websites you want to block in Safari.

Pros

- Easy to use interface
- Works across multiple devices, including Windows

Cons

- 

2. Cold Turkey

Cold Turkey is another effective website blocker, especially useful for those looking for strong productivity tools or to keep distractions to their place. It's available for macOS, allowing you to block websites entirely or for specific time periods.

How to use Cold Turkey on your Mac:

1. Download Cold Turkey from its [website](#) for Mac.
2. Next up, create a block list by adding the websites sites you want to block on Safari.
3. Set up schedules or enable Focus mode for blocking those sites during work hours.

Pros

- Easy to set up
- Blocks sites for specific periods of time

Cons

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Signing off...

Blocking websites on Safari is pretty straightforward. You can use any of the methods above per your preference to block websites and eliminate distractions, enhance your security, and make the internet browsing experience for yourself or your kids safer.

If you encounter any problems or if one of the steps isn't working as intended, please drop a comment. We're here to help you resolve any issues.

FAQs

Q. Can I block websites on Safari without using Screen Time?

Yes, you can block websites on Safari without using Screen Time by using Terminal and content blocker extensions (on Mac) or third-party apps (on iPhone or iPad).

Q. Are there Safari extensions that help block websites?

Yes, there are many [Safari extensions for Mac](#) to help you block websites. Some popular ones include 1Blocker and AdGuard.

Q. How can I block websites in Private Browsing mode on Safari?

If you're having trouble blocking websites in Private Browsing on Safari for Mac, make sure you've enabled the extension in Private Browsing. The Screen Time and Terminal methods (for Mac) will automatically block websites in Private Browsing.