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how to stop pop up ads chrome

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How to Stop Pop Up Ads in Chrome: A Complete Guide

Pop up ads are the digital equivalent of a loud, uninvited guest at a quiet dinner. They interrupt your browsing experience, slow down page loading, and can even pose security risks. If you're tired of being bombarded by those intrusive windows while surfing the web, you're in the right place. This guide will walk you through every method you can use to block pop up ads in Google Chrome, from the built in settings to third party extensions and advanced troubleshooting steps.

Why Pop Up Ads Keep Appearing in Chrome

Before diving into solutions, it helps to understand why pop ups still exist in 2026. Modern browsers, including Chrome, have robust anti pop up mechanisms, but malicious sites and sophisticated ad networks still manage to bypass these defenses. The main reasons pop ups slip through are:

- JavaScript tricks: Some sites use delayed or hidden JavaScript to trigger pop ups after a user has interacted with the page.
- Adware infections: Malware installed on your computer can inject pop ups directly into your browser.
- Misconfigured extensions: Browser add ons that aren't properly sandboxed can open new windows.
- Phishing and scam sites: Sites designed to steal credentials often use pop ups to trick users into providing sensitive information.
- Ad networks' evasion tactics: Some ad services use obfuscated code or rotate domains to avoid detection by ad blockers.

Understanding these vectors will help you choose the most effective combination of tools and settings.

Built In Chrome Settings: The First Line of Defense

Google Chrome already includes a powerful pop up blocker. While it's usually enough for casual browsing, advanced users can tweak the settings for an even tighter net.

Step 1: Open Chrome Settings

1. Click the three dot menu icon in the top right corner.
2. Choose Settings from the dropdown.

Step 2: Navigate to Privacy & Security

- On the left sidebar, click Privacy & security.
- Scroll down to Site Settings and click it.

Step 3: Manage Pop Ups and Redirects

- Find Pop-ups and redirects and click on it.
- Set the toggle to Blocked (recommended). This will prevent most pop ups from appearing.
- Under Allow, you can add trusted sites that you want to allow pop ups from, such as certain banking or ticket booking sites that legitimately use pop ups.

Step 4: Fine Tune JavaScript Permissions

Some pop ups are triggered by JavaScript. Disabling JavaScript for suspicious sites can reduce pop up risk, but it may break functionality on many sites. To strike a balance:

- In Site Settings, locate JavaScript.
- Choose Allowed (recommended) for most sites.
- Add specific sites to the Not allowed list if you encounter pop ups on them.

Step 5: Enable “Safe Browsing”

Chrome’s Safe Browsing feature warns you about malicious sites and can block harmful pop ups before they load.

- In Privacy & security, click Security.
- Select Enhanced protection for real time threat detection.

With these settings in place, many pop ups will be prevented automatically. However, if you still see them, it’s time to add extra layers of protection.

Ad Blocking Extensions: The Most Popular Approach

Extensions like uBlock Origin, Adblock Plus, and AdGuard are the go to tools for blocking ads and pop ups. They offer customizable filters, easy updates, and minimal impact on browsing speed.

Choosing the Right Extension

- uBlock Origin – lightweight, highly configurable, and open source.
- Adblock Plus – user friendly, with a large filter list.
- AdGuard – offers both a browser extension and a standalone desktop app for system wide blocking.

Installing uBlock Origin

1. Go to the Chrome Web Store.
2. Search for “uBlock Origin.”
3. Click Add to Chrome and confirm.
4. Once installed, click the extension icon and open the dashboard.
5. Enable EasyList (the default ad blocking filter) and any additional filters you prefer.

Configuring the Extension

- Open the extension’s settings by clicking the gear icon.
- Under Filter lists, ensure that EasyList and EasyPrivacy are checked.
- Enable “Block pop ups” in the My filters tab if it isn’t already active.
- For advanced users, add custom rules in the My filters tab to block specific URLs or domains.

Once uBlock Origin is active, most pop ups will be intercepted before they appear. If a site is still problematic, you can add it to the **Whitelist** to allow legitimate pop ups.

Using Chrome’s “Site Specific” Controls

Sometimes a particular site keeps pushing pop ups despite your global settings. Chrome allows you to customize permissions on a per site basis.

Blocking Pop Ups for a Specific Site

1. Navigate to the site that’s causing trouble.
2. Click the padlock icon next to the URL.
3. Select Site settings from the dropdown.

4. Find Pop-ups and redirects and set it to Block.

Disabling JavaScript for a Specific Site

1. From the same Site settings menu, locate JavaScript.
2. Set it to Block for that site.

Using “Do Not Track”

While not a direct blocker, enabling **Do Not Track** can reduce targeted ads that often appear as pop ups.

- In Privacy & security, click Cookies and other site data.
- Toggle Send a “Do Not Track” request to Enabled.

Advanced Techniques: Reset, Clean, and Harden

When pop ups persist, deeper system checks are needed. This section covers resetting Chrome, removing malware, and hardening your browser for maximum security.

Reset Chrome to Default Settings

Resetting can clear corrupted data that might be causing pop ups.

1. Open Settings.
2. Scroll to the bottom and click Advanced.
3. Under Reset and clean up, select Restore settings to their original defaults.
4. Confirm by clicking Reset settings.

Scan for Malware and Adware

Malicious software is a common culprit behind pop ups. Use reputable tools to clean your system.

- Malwarebytes – free version for scanning and removal.
- AdwCleaner – specifically targets adware and unwanted programs.
- Run a full system scan and follow the on screen prompts to remove any detections.

Use Chrome’s “Safe Browsing” and “Phishing” Protection

These features are part of Chrome’s built in security. Make sure they’re turned on.

- In Security settings, enable Enhanced protection.
- Enable “Warn when a site might be dangerous” in the same menu.

Disable Suspicious Extensions

Some extensions can be malicious or poorly designed, inadvertently opening pop ups.

1. Click the three dot menu, then More tools !’ Extensions.
2. Review each extension’s name and developer.
3. Toggle off or click Remove for any that seem unfamiliar or unnecessary.

Hardening Chrome with Flags

Chrome’s experimental **flags** can enhance security, though use them carefully.

1. Type chrome://flags in the address bar and press Enter.
2. Search for “pop ups” or “ad blocking.”
3. Enable flags like “Block third party cookies” and “Restrict JavaScript to safe sites” if available.
4. Restart Chrome for changes to take effect.

Pop Up Prevention on Mobile Chrome

Mobile browsers face similar issues, but the steps differ slightly. Here’s how to block pop ups on Android and iOS.

Android Chrome

- Open Chrome and tap the three dot menu.
- Select Settings !’ Site settings.
- Tap Pop ups and redirects and set it to Blocked.
- For JavaScript control, go to JavaScript and toggle it off for problematic sites.

iOS Chrome

- Open Chrome and tap the three dot menu at the bottom.
- Select Settings !’ Site Settings !’ Pop ups.
- Toggle Block Pop ups to On.
- JavaScript can’t be disabled per site on iOS Chrome, but you can use the Reader Mode to reduce ads.

Additional Tips to Keep Pop Ups at Bay

- Keep Chrome Updated: New security patches often fix vulnerabilities that pop up ads exploit.
- Use a Secure DNS: Services like Cloudflare’s 1.1.1.1 or Google DNS can block malicious domains before they load.
- Enable “Do Not Track”: Reduces targeted advertising that often uses pop ups.
- Regularly Clear Browsing Data: Cookies and cached files can store ad tracking data.

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