

WPForms Documentation

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Adding Spam Filters

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REVIEWED By **Editorial Team**
Editor

Would you like to filter spam entries in your forms by blocking submissions from certain countries? Or perhaps you want to filter out submissions that contain prohibited words or phrases? WPForms includes customizable spam filters to help you prevent suspicious entries from being submitted.

In this tutorial, we'll show you how to create country and keyword filters to prevent spam entries.

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Accessing Spam Protection and Security Settings

The spam filter options are located in the form builder's Spam Protection and Security settings. To access them, create a new form or edit an existing one to open the form builder.

Then go to **Settings » Spam Protection and Security**.


	General	>
Setup	Spam Protection and Security	>
	Notifications	>
Fields	Confirmations	>
	User Registration	>
Settings		

You'll find the country and keyword filters under **Filtering**.

Spam Protection and Security

Protection

Behind-the-scenes spam filtering that's invisible to your visitors.

- ☒ Enable anti-spam protection 
- ☐ Enable Akismet anti-spam protection

CAPTCHA

Automated tests that help to prevent bots from submitting your forms.

Displaying Forms on Your Site

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☐ Enable hCaptcha ?

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☐ Enable country filter ?

☐ Enable keyword filter ?

Adding a Country Filter

Using a country filter is a simple and effective way to allow or deny form submissions from specific countries.

To enable this feature from the form builder, head to **Settings » Security and Spam Protection** and toggle on the **Enable country filter** option.

Spam Protection and Security

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☒ Enable country filter

Country Filter

Allow

entries from

Country Filter Message ?

Sorry, this form does not accept submissions from your country.

☐ Enable keyword filter ?

Next, click the dropdown menu under **Country Filter** and select **Allow** if you'd like to permit users from specific countries to submit your form. If you'd like to block users from specific countries from submitting your form, select **Deny**.

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☒ Enable country filter ?

Country Filter

Allow

Deny

entries from

Country Filter Message ?

Sorry, this form does not accept submissions from your country.

☐ Enable keyword filter ?

Then, click the other dropdown and select the countries you'd like to allow or deny entries from.

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☒ Enable country filter ?

Country Filter

Allow

entries from

Country Filter Message ?

Sorry, this form does not accept

☐ Enable keyword filter ?

Afghanistan

Press to select

Åland Islands

Albania

Algeria

For our example, we'll choose to **Allow** entries from **United States of America** only.

Country Filter

Allow

▼

 entries from

United States of America

▼

Now if a user attempts to submit our form from outside of our selected country, the form will fail to submit. They'll also see a default message that reads, "Sorry, this form does not accept submissions from your country."

Name *

Sullie

Eloso

First

Last

Email *

sullie@wpforms.com

Comment or Message

Hi there! I'd like to know more about your product.

Sorry, this form does not accept submissions from your country.

Submit

If you'd like to change the message shown to the denied user, you can add your custom message to the field under **Country Filter Message**.

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☒ Enable country filter

Country Filter

Allow

▼

 entries from

United States of America

▼

Country Filter Message

Sorry, this form does not accept submissions from your country.

☐ Enable keyword filter

Once you've added a country filter, be sure to save your form to apply the changes.

Note: The country filter will only apply to this specific form and won't apply to other forms on your site that you've created with WPForms.

Adding a Keyword Filter

Using a keyword filter is an easy way to manage inputs for all fields in your forms. To start, toggle the **Enable keyword filter** option to the on position.

Spam Protection and Security


Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☐ Enable country filter

☒ Enable keyword filter

Your keyword filter contains 0 phrase(s). [Edit keyword list.](#)

Keyword Filter Message 

Sorry, your message can't be submitted because it contains prohibit

Next, click **Edit keyword list** to open your list of keywords.

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☐ Enable country filter 

☒ Enable keyword filter

Your keyword filter contains 0 phrase(s). [Edit keyword list.](#)

Keyword Filter Message 

Sorry, your message can't be submitted because it contains prohibit

You'll then see a text box labeled **Keyword Filter List**. To add words or phrases to your list, simply type them in the text box. If you add more than one word or phrase, be sure to type each one on its own line.

☒ Enable keyword filter 

Your keyword filter contains 3 phrase(s). [Collapse keyword list.](#)

Keyword Filter List 

cryptocurrency
earn extra cash
free membership

Each word or phrase should be on its own line.

Save Changes

Cancel

Note: Because the keyword filter is case-insensitive, it doesn't detect any difference between lowercase or uppercase letters.

If you use commas to separate the words or phrases in your keyword list instead of placing each on its own line, you'll likely see a prompt to reformat your list. Reformatting your list helps the filter detect the specific words and phrases that you want to block in your forms.

If you wish to reformat, simply click the **Yes, Reformat** button.

Keyword Filter List 

cryptocurrency, earn extra cash, free membership

Each word or phrase should be on its own line.

It appears your keyword filter list is

It appears your keyword filter list is comma-separated. Would you like to reformat it?

Yes, Reformat

Save Changes

Cancel

After reformatting your list, the commas will be removed, and the words and phrases will appear on their own line. This can be particularly helpful if you're copying a list from a CSV file since commas often separate CSV file values by default.

Keyword Filter List ?

cryptocurrency
earn extra cash
free membership

Each word or phrase should be on its own line.

Your keyword filter list has been reformatted. Please save these changes.

Save Changes

Cancel

Once you've added your keywords, click **Save Changes** to update your list of blocked keywords.

Keyword Filter List ?

cryptocurrency
earn extra cash
free membership

Each word or phrase should be on its own line.

Save Changes

Cancel

Note: The words and phrases added to your Keyword Filter List will apply to all forms on your site that you've created with WPForms.

Now when a user attempts to submit your form with one of the blocked keywords, the form will fail to submit. The user will also see a default message that reads, "Sorry, your message can't be submitted because it contains prohibited words."

Name *

Sullie

First

Eloso

Last

Email *

sullie@wpforms.com

Comment or Message

Congrats! You're the lucky winner of a free membership!

Sorry, your message can't be submitted because it contains prohibited words.

Submit

To change the message that's displayed to the denied user, replace the text in the **Keyword Filter Message** field with your preferred message.

Filtering

Restrict form entries based on customizable filters or conditions.

☐ Enable country filter ?

☒ Enable keyword filter ?

Your keyword filter contains 3 phrase(s). [Edit keyword list.](#)

Keyword Filter Message ?

Sorry, your message can't be submitted because it contains prohibi

Once you've set up your keyword filter, be sure to save your form.

Note: To further enhance your form's security by preventing domain names from being submitted in text fields, see our [developer documentation](#) for instructions on blocking specific domains.

That's it! Now you know how to add spam filters to your forms in WPForms.

Next, want to learn about other spam protection options? Check out our [complete guide to WPForms spam protection](#) for more details.

Was this article helpful?



Still stuck? [How can we help?](#)

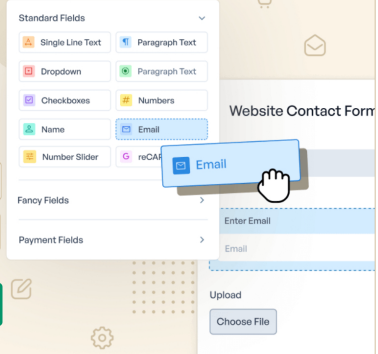
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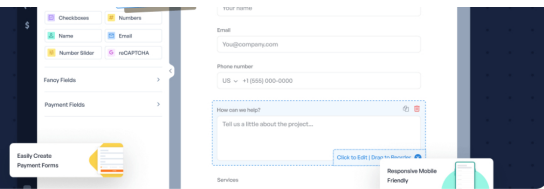


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Top Features

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Conditional Logic
Conversational Forms
Form Landing Pages
Entry Management
Form Abandonment
Form Notifications
Form Templates
File Uploads
Calculation Forms
Geolocation Forms
Multi-Page Forms
Newsletter Forms
Payment Forms
Post Submissions
Signature Forms
Spam Protection
Surveys and Polls
User Registration
WPForms AI

Integrations

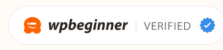
Drip Forms
HubSpot Forms
Mailchimp Forms
Brevo Forms
Salesforce Forms
Authorize.Net
PayPal Forms
Square Forms
Stripe Forms

Helpful Links

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Documentation
Plans & Pricing
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WPBeginner
WordPress Forms for Nonprofits

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