

How to Update WordPress Plugins, Themes and Core

A simple guide for keeping your website healthy, secure and running smoothly.

This guide provides general information to help WordPress users safely update plugins, themes and core software. It is not tailored to any specific website configuration, hosting environment or business requirement. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, Asporea Digital Pty Ltd cannot guarantee that following this guide will prevent issues or that all updates will work smoothly on every website.

Always take a full backup before making changes. If you are unsure, or if your website is complex, customised or business-critical, seek professional support before proceeding. Asporea Digital Pty Ltd is not liable for any loss, damage or downtime arising from the use of this document.

1. Before You Touch Anything: Take a Full Backup

This is your safety net. If something goes wrong, you can restore your site in minutes.

What to do:

- Log in to your hosting control panel (cPanel or similar).
- Find your backup tool (JetBackup, Softaculous, or your host's backup section).
- Take a full account backup.
- Download it to your computer.

Tip: If your host automatically backs up daily, still take your own backup.

2. Turn On Maintenance Mode (Optional but Helpful)

This prevents visitors from seeing half-updated pages.

What to do:

- Install a maintenance mode plugin.
- Activate it before updating.
- Turn it off when finished.



3. Update Your Plugins (Start Here)

Plugins are the most common source of issues, so start with them. Update in small batches so you can see where something breaks.

4. Update Your Themes

Themes affect the design and layout, so treat them gently.

5. Update WordPress Core (The Big One)

Only do this after plugins and themes have been updated.

6. Clear Your Cache

Old files can linger and cause confusion.

7. Turn Off Maintenance Mode

Return your site to normal.

8. Do a Final Quick Check

Look at homepage, key pages, checkout, and mobile view.

9. Make a Tiny Note for Next Time

Write down what you updated and when.

If You Would Prefer a Safe Pair of Hands

If you would rather have someone else manage updates in a safe, controlled way, Asporea Digital can look after it for you. [Book a chat anytime](#) and we'll walk through your setup together.