

Adware: What it is, signs to spot, and how to remove it

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

What you may notice

- Extra ads or tabs opening by themselves
- Random redirects on normal clicks
- New toolbars/extensions; homepage or search changed
- Sluggish browser, higher data use, battery drain

How it gets in

- Bundled with "free" downloads or pirated installers
- Rogue extensions and fake updates
- Drive-by installs from shady sites

Remove it now (quick steps)

- Uninstall unknown apps and browser add-ons
- Reset browser settings to default
- Run a full scan with trusted anti-malware and reboot
- Check DNS/proxy; set back to automatic if altered

Prevent it

- Stick to official stores and reputable publishers
- Choose Custom install; deselect extra offers
- Keep browser, extensions, and OS updated
- Use real-time protection and block malicious sites