

# Greyware - What it is, common symptoms, and how to remove and prevent it

Gridinsoft Help Center

## What it is

Greyware (also spelled grayware) is software that isn't outright malicious but annoying or intrusive. It may change your browser settings, show extra ads, track usage, or install add-ons you didn't ask for. It's less dangerous than true malware, but it still hurts privacy and performance.

## What you may notice

- More ads, pop-ups, or browser redirects
- New toolbars or extensions you didn't approve
- Slower start-up and background updaters that won't quit
- Extra "helper" apps installed alongside something you wanted

## How it sneaks in

- Bundled with "free" downloads and repacked installers
- Pre-checked offers in setup wizards
- Aggressive updaters or unclear "accept" prompts

## Clean it up

- Uninstall unfamiliar programs and browser add-ons.
- Run a full anti-malware scan and reboot.
- Reset browser homepage/search and clear cache.
- Review startup items and scheduled tasks and remove unknowns.

## Prevent it

- Download only from official sites and choose Custom/Advanced during install.
- Uncheck optional offers and decline toolbars or "speed boosters."
- Keep OS, browsers, and security tools updated.
- Consider DNS and web filtering to block shady download portals.