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WordPress comments: switch them on or off, moderate them and keep them tidy

Content, Themes & Plugins

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WordPress comments: switch them on or off, moderate them and keep them tidy

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The short answer: comments give a blog life, but on a company site they tend to cost more work (and spam) than they are worth. The rules are under **Settings > Discussion**. For most company sites the best is to **switch them off on pages** and on only for posts, **with manual approval**.

The settings that count

Setting	What it does	Suggestion
Allow comments on new posts	Switches on or off for those you write from now on.	Off on a site with no blog; on only if you will reply.
Comment must be manually approved	Nothing appears without you approving it.	**On.** The simplest defence.
Author with a previously approved comment	Someone already approved goes through without waiting.	On, for regular readers.
Close comments after N days	Old posts stop receiving comments (and spam).	On, with a long period.
Moderation by words and links	Holds comments with certain words or many links.	Hold those with 2 or more links.
Avatars (Gravatar)	Shows the author’s picture, linked to an outside service.	Off if you do not need it: saves requests and data.

Step by step

1. **Open Settings > Discussion** and adjust the table’s options.

2 **To switch off on a single page,** open it, look for “Discussion” in the page settings and untick “Allow comments”. Or, under Pages, use “Quick Edit”.

3 **Moderate:** Comments > those that are “pending”. Approve, reply, or mark as spam.

4 **Against spam:** **Stopping spam comments in WordPress** (Akismet comes with WordPress, with its own rules for commercial use).

5 **Bulk delete:** piled-up spam can be deleted at once from the spam bin.

! **Comments store personal data**
(name, e-mail, IP address). Say so in the privacy policy and answer deletion requests: **Personal data protection**. Rules vary by country.

If you do not reply to comments, switch them off: an ignored comment drives away more than it helps.

NEED A HAND?

Want help cleaning up a site’s comments? Open a ticket with the address.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **Stopping spam comments in WordPress** →
- **Personal data protection: what applies to your website** →
- **Writing a blog post in WordPress** →
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