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Generated on 15/11/2026 00:11

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Mixed content after moving to HTTPS: the padlock that will not turn on

Errors & Troubleshooting

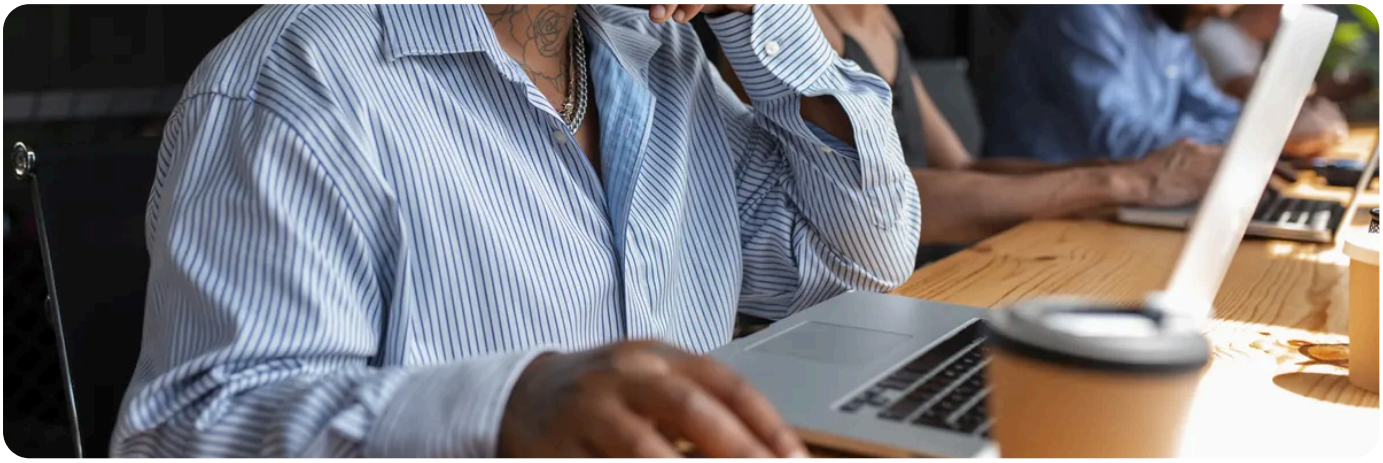
CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-AO-KB-814	v2026.10.10	Angola · English

Interweb Angola
RLX Angola, Lda. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NIF) 500 260 5724 · Commercial registration no. 26464-25/250724

https://www.meu.interweb.ao/knowledgebase/814

Mixed content after moving to HTTPS: the padlock that will not turn on

Errors & Troubleshooting Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



The certificate is installed, the site opens on `https`, and the browser still says “not secure” or shows a padlock with a warning. That is **mixed content**: the page is secure, but part of it (an image, a font, a script) is still requested over `http`. The certificate is not at fault. What is left is swapping the old addresses, one by one.

First: find what still comes over http

1. **Open the page with the problem** and press F12 to open the browser’s developer tools. The console tab lists “Mixed Content” warnings with the exact address of each file that came over `http`.

2. **Or search the source.** Right-click, “View page source”, and search for `http://`. Every hit that points to an image, stylesheet or script is a suspect.

3. **Sort yours from other people’s.** Yours (on your own domain) are fixed inside WordPress. Third-party ones (a font, a map, an embedded video) are fixed by changing the address to `https` or by dropping the element.

Then: fix it at the source

1. **Set both WordPress addresses to https**, in Settings, General. See **changing the site address** for the right order.

2. **Replace the old addresses inside your content.** Images inserted into posts and pages store the full address. Use a proper search and replace tool, one that handles the data WordPress stores in a special format, and never a plain replacement in the database.

3 **Look where the content is not.** Widgets, the theme customiser, theme options, custom fields and plugin settings store addresses too. If you use Elementor, regenerate its styles from its tools: see **using Elementor**.

4 **Force HTTPS across the site**, so nothing is still requested the old way: **redirecting HTTP to HTTPS with .htaccess**.

5 **Clear the caches**: the cache plugin's, the browser's and Cloudflare's if you use it. A page stored before the fix keeps showing the warning.

What the browser is telling you

Sign	What it means
A padlock with a warning, or "not secure" on a single page	That page loads at least one file over `http`.
"Not secure" on every page	Not mixed content: the certificate is not being accepted. See **the missing padlock, in order**.
Images that do not show	The browser blocked them for being `http` inside an `https` page.
A warning only on phones or only for some visitors	A cache serving an old version of the page.

A plugin that "fixes" mixed content is a plaster, not a cure.
It does the swap in front of the visitor, every time the page is requested, and leaves the wrong addresses in the database. It buys time (with **Really Simple SSL**, for instance), but the real fix is changing the addresses at the source.

Walk the visitor's route.
After fixing, open the home page, a post, an inner page and the contact page in a private window. If the padlock stays clean on all of them, you are done. The certificate itself is issued by the server (AutoSSL); if that is what is missing, start with **what an SSL certificate is**.

NEED A HAND?

Padlock still showing a warning after you swapped the addresses? Send us the page address and what the console says, and we will tell you whether it is the certificate or the content.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- SSL certificates →
- WordPress hosting →
- Support Policy →

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