

Computer Virus Protection

Keeping Your Computer Safe

If you're being assailed by computer viruses and don't have the time for in-depth research but need to stay on the Net, follow these three most crucial steps to keep your computer healthy:

- Use a firewall whenever you're online. Firewalls are programs that let your computer block all types of incoming information from the Net. To learn how to use a firewall visit [Bleeping Computer](#) for more information, or [Apple](#) for how to use Mac OS X's built-in firewall.
- Update your computer and software as frequently as possible. Most programs will either prompt such updates or allow you to authorize automatic updates.
- Update your antivirus software frequently. New viruses are created and transmitted nearly every day.
- For information on how to implement these and other suggestions, see the ["How To" section of StaySafe.org](#).

Contrary to popular belief, Macs can get viruses as well. Some measure of precaution is recommended with any computer, regardless of the operating system.

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Preventing Spyware

Your computer might have spyware if:

- An onslaught of pop-up ads appears.
- Your browser directs you to sites other than the ones you type in the address box.
- Your homepage changes on its own, or you find toolbars that you didn't download.
- Certain keys on your computer's keyboard stop working.
- You receive random error messages.
- Your computer shows decreased performance speed when saving files or opening programs.

From the findingDulcinea Web Guide to Internet Security: Staying Safe Online