

# Prevent Ransomware with Windows Defender

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1. Open **Settings** (Windows + I) and select the **Update & Security** entry.
2. Select the **Windows Defender** tab on the left and click **Open Windows Defender Security Center**.
3. In the Security Center, select **Virus & threat protection**.
4. On the resulting page, choose **Virus & threat protection settings**.
5. Scroll down to **Controlled folder access** and toggle the slider on. Doing so will generate a list of protected folders. Only apps that are confirmed as safe can make changes to these folders.
6. Click **Protected folders** to review the default folders (which you can't remove) or **Add a protected folder** if you wish.
7. If Defender blocks an app that you trust, select **Allow an app through Controlled Folder access**. Specify the program's location, and you won't see warnings about it anymore.

Once you've enabled this feature, untrusted apps can't make changes to the listed folders. You'll see a notification when Windows Defender blocks access. While you may have some false positives at first, this is another layer of safety that prevents ransomware from locking your files.