

DEVIL-GUARD DEBLOAT

User Manual

Version 1.0.1 • Portable Windows 10/11 Debloat & Privacy Utility

Important

Devil-Guard Debloat can remove Windows applications and change system settings. Read the confirmation prompts, keep the restore-point and registry-backup options enabled where possible, and avoid Advanced operations unless you understand the effect.

No installation required • Portable EXE • Windows 10/11 x64

Contents

	Section
	About Devil-Guard Debloat
	System requirements and portable operation
	First run and Windows security prompts
	Dashboard and quick actions
	Using Recommended and Lite modes
	Building a Custom run
	Tweaks tab
	Apps tab
	Restart detection
	Advanced tools
	Backups, logs and recovery
	Removing Devil-Guard Debloat
	Troubleshooting
	Safety guidance and FAQ

Quick start

For the safest first run: open Devil-Debloat.exe, choose Recommended, leave restore point and registry backup enabled, review the confirmation, apply the changes, and restart only if the application reports that a restart is required.

1. About Devil-Guard Debloat

Devil-Guard Debloat is a portable Windows 10/11 utility for reducing unwanted software, applying privacy and usability tweaks, and managing selected Windows settings from one interface. It wraps the Win11Debloat engine in a Devil-Guard desktop interface.

What it can do

- Apply a Recommended preset based on the embedded Win11Debloat configuration.
- Apply a lighter Lite preset with fewer Windows changes.
- Select individual tweaks through a searchable Tweaks table.
- Select removable Windows applications through a searchable Apps table.
- Create a System Restore Point before supported operations.
- Back up registry data before changes.
- Restart Windows Explorer after changes when selected.
- Detect settings that require a full Windows restart.
- Detect Windows servicing or update states that already require a restart.
- Open logs, working data, backups, and the complete upstream control interface.

How the portable EXE works

The program itself does not use an installer and does not install a Windows service. On first use it extracts its embedded working engine to the current user's local application-data folder so that Windows PowerShell can access scripts, registry files, logs, configurations and backups.

> **Working data location**
>
> %LOCALAPPDATA%\Devil-Guard\Debloat\ — deleting this folder causes the engine to be recreated on the next run, but it also removes locally stored backups and logs.

2. System requirements and portable operation

Requirement	Details
Operating system	Windows 10 or Windows 11, 64-bit
Installation	None. Run the portable EXE directly.
.NET runtime	Not required on the target PC when using the self-contained build.
PowerShell	The embedded engine uses Windows PowerShell 5.1, which is included with supported Windows versions.
Administrator rights	Required when applying system-level changes. The application requests UAC elevation when needed.
Disk space	Allow space for the EXE plus extracted working data, logs and backups.

Recommended folder

You can keep Devil-Debloat.exe in any normal folder that you control, such as a dedicated utilities folder. The application does not need to be placed in Program Files.

Updating the portable EXE

When a new version is released, close the application and replace the old EXE with the new one. Keep the working-data folder if you want to retain existing logs and backups.

3. First run and Windows security prompts

1. Download Devil-Debloat.exe from your trusted Devil-Guard download source.
2. Move the EXE to the folder where you want to keep the portable utility.
3. Double-click Devil-Debloat.exe.
4. Allow the application to initialize its embedded engine. The first launch may take slightly longer while working files are prepared.
5. Review the Dashboard before applying any changes.

Microsoft Defender SmartScreen

A newly built or unsigned portable EXE may be unfamiliar to Windows SmartScreen. If a SmartScreen prompt appears, first verify that the file came from your trusted download source. Only continue if you are satisfied that the file is genuine.

> **Security rule**
>
> Do not disable Microsoft Defender or other security software just to run Devil-Guard Debloat. If security software flags the file, verify the download and scan it before proceeding.

User Account Control (UAC)

The interface can open without staying permanently elevated. When a system-changing action is started, Windows may display a UAC prompt. Choose Yes only if you intended to apply the selected changes.

4. Dashboard and quick actions

The Dashboard is the main control page. It shows basic Windows and engine information, quick-action presets, restart status, and the options used by a custom run.

Dashboard item	Purpose
System status	Shows the Windows version, Windows PowerShell engine and embedded Win11Debloat engine version.
Recommended	Applies the upstream recommended defaults.
Lite	Applies a lighter preset with fewer Windows changes.
Full control panel	Opens the complete embedded Win11Debloat interface for advanced or upstream-only options.
Restart required	Appears only when Windows or selected settings require a full restart.
Custom run	Applies the selections made in the Tweaks and Apps tabs.
Open logs	Opens the folder containing execution logs.
About	Shows application and third-party information.

Custom-run safety options

- Create restore point — enabled by default. Keep this selected for system changes unless you have a specific reason not to.
- Back up registry — enabled by default. Keeps registry backup data for recovery and review.
- Restart Explorer after changes — enabled by default. Useful for shell, Start, taskbar and Explorer-related changes.

5. Using Recommended and Lite modes

Recommended mode

Recommended mode is the best starting point for most users who want the intended Devil-Guard/Win11Debloat default configuration without selecting every individual setting.

6. Open the Dashboard.
7. Select Run recommended.
8. Read the confirmation message carefully.
9. If the confirmation states that a restart will be required, plan to save any open work first.
10. Confirm the operation and approve the UAC prompt if Windows requests elevation.
11. Wait for the operation to complete. Do not close PowerShell or the application while changes are being applied.
12. Review the completion message and restart only if Devil-Guard Debloat reports that a restart is required.

Lite mode

Lite mode follows the same workflow but applies fewer Windows changes. Use it when you want a more conservative cleanup or when you prefer to keep more Windows defaults.

> **Before either preset**
>
> Close important work, save documents, and preferably keep restore-point and registry-backup protection available. Presets can change Windows behavior even when a reboot is not required.

6. Building a Custom run

Custom mode lets you decide exactly which tweaks and applications are included.

13. Open the Tweaks tab and select the settings you want.
14. Open the Apps tab and select any applications you want to remove.
15. If you want selected applications removed, enable Remove the selected applications during a custom run on the Apps tab.
16. Return to the Dashboard.
17. Leave Create restore point and Back up registry enabled unless you intentionally do not want them.
18. Choose whether Windows Explorer should restart after changes.
19. Select Apply custom selection.
20. Review the confirmation message. The program lists selected items that require a full restart.
21. Confirm and approve UAC elevation if prompted.
22. Wait until the run completes and review the restart status.

> **Accidental app removal protection**
>
> Selecting apps in the Apps table is not enough by itself. Application removal remains disabled until the separate Remove the selected applications during a custom run checkbox is enabled.

7. Tweaks tab

The Tweaks tab exposes supported settings from the embedded Win11Debloat feature database. You can search, filter by category, select recommended items, or build your own selection.

Column/control	Meaning
Use	Check to include the setting in a custom run.
Setting	Human-readable setting name.
Category	The general area of Windows affected.
Group	Related alternatives. Grouped settings can be mutually exclusive.
Restart	Shows Required when the setting needs a full Windows restart.
Notes	Description or tooltip information supplied by the engine.
Recommended button	Selects the engine's recommended tweak set.
Clear button	Clears the current tweak selections.

Grouped settings

When settings belong to the same mutually exclusive group, choose the one behavior you want. Avoid selecting conflicting alternatives.

8. Apps tab

The Apps tab lists Windows applications known to the embedded engine. The supplied build loads 141 removable-app definitions.

Column/control	Meaning
Remove	Check an application to mark it for removal.
App	Friendly application name.
App ID	Package or product identifier used by the removal engine.
Method	Removal method used by the engine.
Recommendation	The upstream recommendation status.
Description	Additional information about the application.
Recommended	Selects applications recommended for removal by the embedded engine.
All	Selects all listed applications. Use this with caution.
Clear	Clears all app selections.

Removing applications safely

- Use Recommended instead of All unless you know exactly what each package does.
- Review the Description and Recommendation columns before selecting an application.
- Remember to enable the separate app-removal checkbox before applying a custom run.
- Some removed applications can be reinstalled from Microsoft Store or with Windows package-management tools, but not every removal is identical to an uninstall.

> **Caution**
>
> Removing built-in applications can affect Windows features or workflows that depend on those packages. Create a restore point before broad app-removal runs.

9. Restart detection

Devil-Guard Debloat v1.0.1 checks restart requirements instead of automatically telling you to reboot after every run.

Before applying changes

The Tweaks table reads the Win11Debloat RequiresReboot metadata. Settings marked Required are known by the embedded engine to need a full Windows restart.

After applying changes

After a successful operation, Devil-Guard Debloat also checks standard Windows pending-restart indicators, including Component Based Servicing, Windows Update, and pending file-replacement operations.

When the restart banner appears

23. Save any open documents and work.
24. Return to the Dashboard.
25. Review the listed restart reasons.
26. Choose Restart now if you are ready, or close the application and restart Windows later.

> **No banner means no forced reboot**
>
> If Devil-Guard Debloat completes successfully without showing a restart-required state, you generally do not need to restart solely because the program ran. Explorer may still be restarted automatically when that option is enabled.

10. Advanced tools

The Advanced tab contains operations that can make broader Windows changes. These options are intended for experienced users.

Force remove Microsoft Edge

The embedded upstream project marks forced Edge removal as NOT RECOMMENDED. Windows features can depend on Edge or WebView components. Devil-Guard Debloat therefore places this action behind two confirmation prompts.

> **High-risk operation**
>
> Do not force-remove Microsoft Edge unless you understand the Windows components that can depend on it and you have a recovery plan.

Open upstream interface

Open full controls launches the complete embedded Win11Debloat interface. Use it for options not duplicated in the Devil-Guard wrapper, including restore tools, deployment/Sysprep options, Start-menu replacement, optional Windows features and user targeting.

Working data

- Open data folder — opens the Devil-Guard Debloat working-data directory.
- Open backup folder — opens the location used for retained backup data.

11. Backups, logs and recovery

Restore point

The custom-run Create restore point option is enabled by default. A Windows restore point can provide a recovery path for many system and registry changes.

Registry backup

Back up registry is enabled by default for custom runs. Keep these backups until you are satisfied with the result of your changes.

Logs

Use Open logs at the top of the application to review operation logs. Logs are useful when troubleshooting a failed or partially completed run.

Recovery options

- For a recent system-setting problem, use Windows System Restore if a suitable restore point was created.
- For registry-specific recovery, use the backup/restore tools available through the embedded upstream interface and retained backup files.
- For removed Store applications, reinstall the required application from Microsoft Store or an appropriate Windows package source when possible.
- If a Windows feature was disabled, use the full upstream controls or Windows Optional Features to re-enable it.

> **Keep backups separate**
>
> If you intend to delete %LOCALAPPDATA%\Devil-Guard\Debloat\, first copy any logs or backups you want to retain. Deleting that folder deletes the local copies stored there.

12. Removing Devil-Guard Debloat

Because the application is portable, there is no normal uninstall routine.

27. Close Devil-Guard Debloat.
28. Delete Devil-Debloat.exe from the folder where you stored it.
29. If you also want to remove the working data, open %LOCALAPPDATA%\Devil-Guard\Debloat\ and copy any backups or logs you want to keep.
30. Delete the Devil-Guard Debloat working-data folder only after you are sure the retained backups are no longer required.

Removing the EXE or its working-data folder does not automatically reverse Windows changes previously applied by the utility. Use restore points, backups, Windows settings or the upstream restore controls to reverse changes where supported.

13. Troubleshooting

Problem	What to check
Nothing happens when I apply changes	Check for a UAC prompt behind other windows. Then review Open logs for the last operation.
A custom run says nothing is selected	Select at least one available tweak, or select apps and enable the separate app-removal checkbox.
Selected apps were not removed	Confirm that Remove the selected applications during a custom run was enabled before applying the custom run.
Windows says a restart is required	Save work and restart when convenient. The Dashboard shows the restart-required state and reasons.
The app opens after I deleted its data folder	This is expected. The embedded engine recreates its working files on the next launch.
I need a setting not shown in the wrapper	Use Open full controls to access the complete embedded Win11Debloat interface.
A setting caused an unwanted change	Use the relevant Windows setting, the upstream restore controls, registry backup or System Restore depending on the type of change.

14. Safety guidance and FAQ

Safety checklist

- Save important work before applying a large batch of changes.
- Keep Create restore point and Back up registry enabled when practical.
- Start with Recommended or Lite rather than selecting everything.
- Review every app before using the All selection.
- Treat the Advanced tab as expert-level functionality.
- Restart Windows only when required or when you intentionally want a clean post-change boot.
- Keep logs and backups until you have verified that Windows and your usual applications work as expected.

Frequently asked questions

Does Devil-Guard Debloat need to be installed?

No. It is a portable EXE. The program extracts working files to your local application-data folder, but it does not use a traditional installer.

Does the target PC need .NET 10 installed?

No, when you use the self-contained portable build.

Does it always need Administrator rights?

No. The interface can open normally. UAC elevation is requested when system-changing operations require it.

Does every change require a reboot?

No. The program marks known reboot-required tweaks and checks Windows for a genuine pending restart after a run.

Can I remove every listed Windows app?

The All button can select all listed apps, but doing so is not recommended unless you have reviewed the dependencies and understand the consequences.

Can I undo all changes by deleting the EXE?

No. Deleting the portable EXE does not reverse changes already made to Windows.

Third-party engine

Devil-Guard Debloat embeds Raphire Win11Debloat. The embedded project is licensed under the MIT License, and its copyright and license notices are preserved with the application.

> **Version covered by this manual**
>
> Devil-Guard Debloat v1.0.1 with embedded Win11Debloat 2026.08.24. Interface labels and available tweaks may change in later releases.