

Website Security Baseline Checklist

A practical, no-theatre checklist for reviewing DNS, Cloudflare, security headers, WordPress, and recovery on a website you own or manage. 25 checks, ~30 minutes.

How to use: run it against one site end-to-end. Tick what's already true; anything unticked is a candidate fix. Start with sections A and E — DNS and recovery are where a small mistake becomes an outage.

A DNS & domain basics

- ☐ Confirm registrar account has MFA enabled.
- ☐ Confirm domain expiry date and auto-renewal status.
- ☐ Export or back up all DNS records.
- ☐ Review old, unused, or suspicious DNS records.
- ☐ Check SPF, DKIM, and DMARC records if email is in use.

B Cloudflare baseline

- ☐ Confirm proxy status (orange cloud) is enabled for public web records.
- ☐ Enable Always Use HTTPS redirect.
- ☐ Review WAF and Security Level settings.
- ☐ Check rate-limiting or Bot Protection options.
- ☐ Review Page Rules, Redirects, and Transform Rules for stale entries.

C Website security headers

- ☐ Strict-Transport-Security — HSTS is set with a suitable max-age.
- ☐ Content-Security-Policy — CSP restricts inline scripts and untrusted origins.
- ☐ X-Content-Type-Options — set to nosniff.
- ☐ Referrer-Policy — set to strict-origin-when-cross-origin or stricter.
- ☐ Permissions-Policy — restricts camera, microphone, geolocation where not needed.

D WordPress checks

- ☐ Confirm WordPress core, all plugins, and themes are updated.
- ☐ Remove unused plugins and themes.
- ☐ Confirm all admin accounts are expected and active.
- ☐ Confirm backups exist and a restore has been tested.
- ☐ Review Wordfence or security plugin alerts and scan results.

E Recovery checks

- ☐ Confirm a DNS record backup exists and is stored off-platform.
- ☐ Confirm a website/database backup exists and is restorable.
- ☐ Confirm the restore process is documented and known to at least two people.
- ☐ Confirm emergency contact paths to registrar, host, and Cloudflare are documented.
- ☐ Confirm account recovery options (MFA backup codes) are stored securely.