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How to activate and install a paid SSL certificate

Security

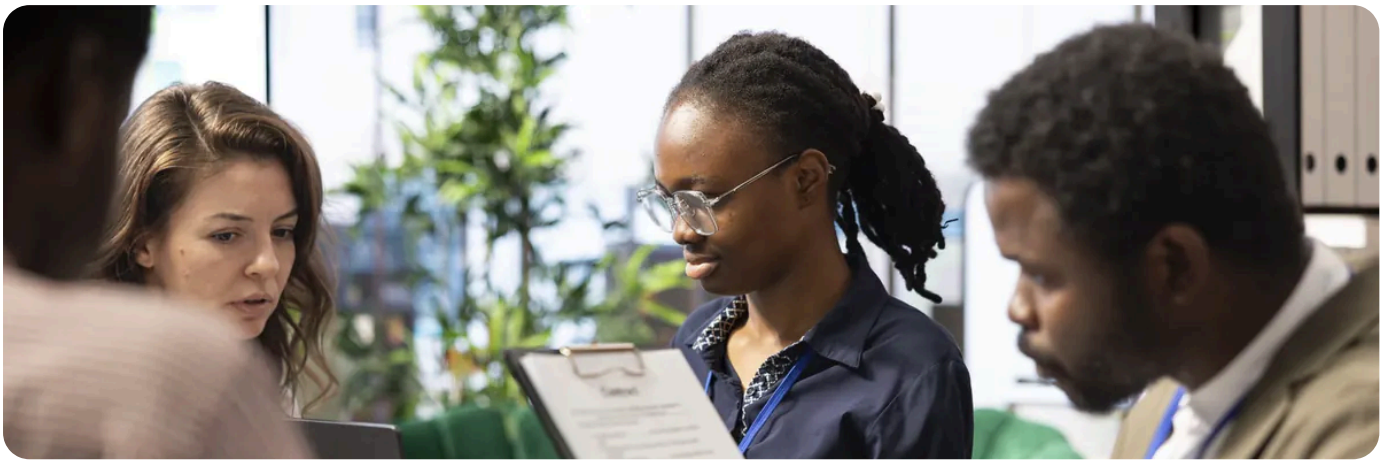
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How to activate and install a paid SSL certificate

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Every domain here already gets a free certificate automatically - see **what an SSL certificate is**. This page is only for a **paid** certificate you bought (RapidSSL, GeoTrust and similar), which needs a validation step the free one doesn't.

1. Order and generate the CSR

1. After paying, open the certificate under **My Products & Services** in the portal.
2. You'll be asked for a **CSR** - a request generated by the server. In cPanel, go to **SSL/TLS → Generate, view, or delete SSL certificate signing requests**, fill in the domain and company details, and copy the whole block, including the BEGIN and END lines.
3. Paste the CSR into the certificate configuration and submit.

2. Prove the domain is yours

The certificate authority has to confirm you control the domain. You choose the method:

1. **By e-mail** - a message goes to an address at the domain (admin@, webmaster@ and similar). You must be able to read it, so create the mailbox first if it doesn't exist.
2. **By DNS** - you add a record to the zone. Convenient if the domain's mail isn't set up yet.
3. **By file** - you upload a file the authority gives you into the site's folder.

3. Install it

1. Once validated, the authority issues the certificate - usually within minutes for the basic ones.
2. In cPanel, open **SSL/TLS → Manage SSL sites**, choose the domain, paste the certificate, and install.
3. Check the padlock in the browser. If it doesn't appear, force HTTPS - see **how to redirect HTTP to HTTPS**.

> **A paid certificate doesn't renew itself.**
> Unlike the free one, it has to be reissued and reinstalled - see **why certificates last less than a year**. Put a reminder in your calendar.

NEED A HAND?

Stuck at validation, or the padlock won't appear? Send us the domain.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- **How to clean up a compromised site**
- **How to tell if your site has been compromised**
- **How to redirect HTTP to HTTPS with .htaccess**
- **Want a paid SSL certificate? See the options.**

SSL CERTIFICATES

The padlock your customers look for.

A paid certificate adds warranty and company validation - useful for online shops and any site taking payments or customer data.

See SSL certificates →

Hosting already includes free SSL for everyday use

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