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Generated on 21/10/2026 17:19

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How to redirect HTTP to HTTPS with .htaccess

Security

CODE	VERSION	COUNTRY · LANGUAGE
RLX-MZ-KB-72	v2026.10.20	Mozambique · English

Interweb Mozambique
RLX Holdings, S.A. · Group RLX Holdings
Tax ID (NUIT) 401 191 607 · Legal entity no. (NUEL) 105 045 974 · Economic activity code (CAE) 62022

https://www.meu.interweb.co.mz/knowledgebase/72

How to redirect HTTP to HTTPS with .htaccess

Security Created on **August 14, 2026** Updated on **October 20, 2026** 2 min read



This forces every visitor to the encrypted version of your site, even if they type or link to the plain *http://* address.

Before you start

Make sure SSL is already active on the domain (it is, by default, through AutoSSL - see **what an SSL certificate is**) before adding this redirect, or visitors will be sent to a page that doesn't load.

Adding the redirect

1. In cPanel, open **File Manager** and go into **public_html** (or the site's folder, if it isn't the main domain).
2. Open the **.htaccess** file for editing - if there isn't one yet, create it. Make sure hidden files are visible, since it starts with a dot.
3. Add these lines at the very top of the file, above anything already there (such as WordPress's own rules):

```
RewriteEngine on
RewriteCond %{HTTPS} off
RewriteRule (.*) https://%{HTTP_HOST}%{REQUEST_URI} [R=301,L]
```

4. Save the file and test by visiting the *http://* version of your site - it should land on *https://* automatically.

Using Cloudflare?

If your domain's traffic passes through Cloudflare, set the SSL/TLS mode in the Cloudflare dashboard to **Full** or **Full (strict)** before adding this rule. On **Flexible** mode, Cloudflare talks to this server over plain HTTP, so the server always sees *%{HTTPS} off* and redirects forever - an endless redirect loop that never finishes loading.

NEED A HAND?

Redirect loop or site not loading after this? We'll take a look.

Open a support ticket →

Testing it, and the WordPress way

- **In the browser:** open a private window and type the address with http://. It should end up on https:// with the padlock. The private window avoids an old redirect the browser may have kept.
- **On the command line:** `curl -I http://yourdomain.com` should answer `301 Moved Permanently`, with a `Location` line pointing to the https:// address.
- **On WordPress:** also change **WordPress Address** and **Site Address** to https:// in **Settings > General**. If you would rather not edit .htaccess, an SSL plugin can do the redirect for you. Use one redirect method, not two stacked.
- **A padlock with a warning (mixed content):** the page is on https, but some image, script or style is still called with http://. The redirect does not fix that: replace the old addresses in the content (on WordPress, a search and replace plugin does it in the database). The certificate itself is issued by AutoSSL in the panel, at no cost.

SEE ALSO

- Why does my SSL certificate show fewer than 365 days? →
- How to tell if your site has been compromised →
- What is an SSL certificate and why does it matter? →
- 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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ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CODE (CAE)	62022
REGISTERED OFFICE	Bairro 7 de Setembro Vilankulo 1304 · CEP 0411-02, Inhambane, Mozambique
CONTACT	info@interweb.co.mz · +258 84 635 1111 · +258 86 635 1111 · www.interweb.co.mz
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