

What is: http:// & https://

Introduction:

There seems to be some confusion over what a safe website is and what is not; some browsers block some sites, and some just inform you with a flag that it is not secure. Not secure does not mean it is unsafe, just not secure, and the information could be seen by a third party on route to the website. The information below explains in more detail the differences. Many sites use the HTTP protocol, as switching to HTTPS adds extra costs to the site owner.

HTTP://

HTTP stands for **HyperText Transfer Protocol**. It is the foundational protocol used to transfer and display web pages and data on the Internet. When you see "[URL]" the beginning of a web address, it means your browser is requesting information from a website without any encryption. This makes the data vulnerable to interception or tampering during transmission.

No encryption: Data sent via HTTP is in plain text, meaning anyone intercepting the connection can read it.

If you're browsing static content, the risk of being intercepted is low.

Do not submit any personal information, such as names, addresses or credit card numbers, over a non-secure site.

HTTPS://

HTTPS, on the other hand, stands for **HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure**. It's essentially HTTP but with an added layer of security, using encryption via SSL/TLS protocols. When you see "[URL] a web address, it means all data exchanged between your browser and the website is encrypted, helping to protect your privacy and security. This is especially important for sites where you enter sensitive information, such as passwords or payment details.

- **Encryption via TLS/SSL:** HTTPS encrypts all communication, protecting sensitive data like passwords and credit card numbers.
- **Server authentication:** HTTPS uses certificates to verify that you're talking to the real website, not a fake one.
- **Data integrity:** It ensures that the data hasn't been tampered with during transmission.

How to check the security of a website:

Go to : <https://www.ssltrust.com/ssl-tools/website-security-check>

And enter the site domain name.

If the site is over HTTP:// then do not send sensitive information, such as bank or debit/credit card details