ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Spybot Search & Destroy

The Insider's Guide

Anti-spyware for Windows with paid antivirus editions



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among antivirus apps, read from Spybot Search & Destroy's own pages.

Made by Safer-Networking Ltd. · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0

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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Spybot Search & Destroy's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Spybot Search & Destroy's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.0

GPA, above 14 of the 56 other antivirus apps we grade

Spybot Search & Destroy is anti-spyware software from Safer-Networking Ltd., an Irish company. Anti-spyware is free; paid Home and Professional editions are sold as 12-month subscriptions, and Corporate and Technician's editions are sold to businesses. The vendor says its first Spybot was written in 1999 to remove an infection from one computer.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Spybot Search & Destroy**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **Prices are in euros and some include tax while others do not.**
>
> From our report card of Spybot Search & Destroy

1 **Best for an anti-spyware scan on a Windows PC**

The vendor itself recommends the paid antivirus editions for protection against all kinds of malware.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at EUR 18.99 per 12 months, incl. tax (Home edition).

3 There is a free plan

The Free edition provides Spybot's anti-spyware at no charge; the vendor recommends its paid +Antivirus editions for protection against all kinds of malware.

4 It runs on Windows

Windows.

5 Anti-spyware

Searches for spyware, adware and other unwanted programs; the vendor offers this part free.

6 Live Protection

Scans and monitors newly created and running processes and blocks malicious ones before they start.

7 Anti-Beacon

A separate Spybot product that the vendor says stops Windows and third-party software from sending telemetry.

8 A 2.0 GPA, above 14 of 56

That is against the other antivirus apps we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 Keep it

To replace Spybot Search & Destroy you would be making an engine that recognises new malware as it appears. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Spybot Search & Destroy at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from EUR 18.99 per 12 months, incl. tax (Home edition)

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
None stated

RUNS ON
Windows

MADE BY
Safer-Networking Ltd.

CATEGORY
Antivirus & Malware Protection

OUR GRADE
2.0 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for an anti-spyware scan on a Windows PC

Spybot is an anti-spyware program for Windows with a free edition and paid editions from EUR 18.99 a year. The vendor itself recommends the paid antivirus editions for protection against all kinds of malware. Prices are in euros and some include tax while others do not.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Spybot Search & Destroy** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	The free edition costs nothing and Home is EUR 18.99 a year, around $1.7 a month. The free one covers anti-spyware only.
Free plan and trial	C	A free anti-spyware edition. The vendor recommends the paid antivirus editions for full malware cover, so you will want to pay.
Features	C	Anti-spyware in the free edition and an antivirus option in paid ones. The listing could not show which features each edition has.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. Several editions and a copy-count selector mean you choose before you start.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows only: no Mac or phone version is listed.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Spybot Search & Destroy is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a free anti-spyware scan on a Windows PC
- ✓ Works for technicians who want Professional or Technician's editions

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want full malware protection free, as the vendor recommends the paid editions
- ✗ Skip it if you use a Mac or a phone, as only Windows is covered
- ✗ Watch out: prices are in euros and two editions show tax included, two excluded
- ✗ Watch out: the home page carried a notice about payment provider outages
- ✗ Tight if you want a renewal price, as none is stated and subscriptions renew every 12 months

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows users who want a free anti-spyware scanner next to another antivirus
- ✓ Technicians who need a toolkit edition

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Prices are in euros and the page shows two as including tax and two as excluding tax.
- ⓘ The home page carried a notice that the payment provider 2Checkout had outages and that buyers should use the contact form.
- ⓘ Subscriptions renew every 12 months; the vendor says it will remind you before renewal, and no renewal price is stated.
- ⓘ Which features each edition includes is shown by tick marks the text version of the page does not carry.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

5

plans to choose from

Spybot Search & Destroy has a free plan. Paid plans start at EUR 18.99 per 12 months, incl. tax (Home edition).

> **The vendor recommends the paid antivirus editions for full malware cover, so you will want to pay.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Anti-spyware scanning. The edition comparison table marks which of the features it includes; the vendor accepts donations.

HOME

€18.99

per 12 months, incl. tax; subscription, with a reminder before renewal

Personal edition with the antivirus option; priced in euros, with a copy-count selector on the page.

PROFESSIONAL

€29.99

per 12 months, incl. tax; subscription, with a reminder before renewal

Personal edition described as the choice for experienced users, with more tools for control over the computer.

CORPORATE

€39.99

per 12 months, excl. tax; subscription, with a reminder before renewal

Business edition.

TECHNICIAN'S

€59

per 12 months, excl. tax; subscription, with a reminder before renewal

Business edition.

The free plan

The Free edition provides Spybot's anti-spyware at no charge; the vendor recommends its paid +Antivirus editions for protection against all kinds of malware.

Read from safer-networking.org on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Windows

Anti-spyware for Windows with paid antivirus editions. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: system monitor, malware protection.

"

Anti-spyware in the free edition and an antivirus option in paid ones.

From our grade for features

Anti-spyware

Searches for spyware, adware and other unwanted programs; the vendor offers this part free.

Live Protection

Scans and monitors newly created and running processes and blocks malicious ones before they start.

Anti-Beacon

A separate Spybot product that the vendor says stops Windows and third-party software from sending telemetry.

Startup and system tools

The comparison table lists startup tools, rootkit scan, system registry repair and a protected repair environment across editions.

Edition ladder

Home, Professional, Free, Corporate and Technician's editions, with the antivirus engine and extra tools varying by edition.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Spybot Search & Destroy is made by Safer-Networking Ltd.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

14/56

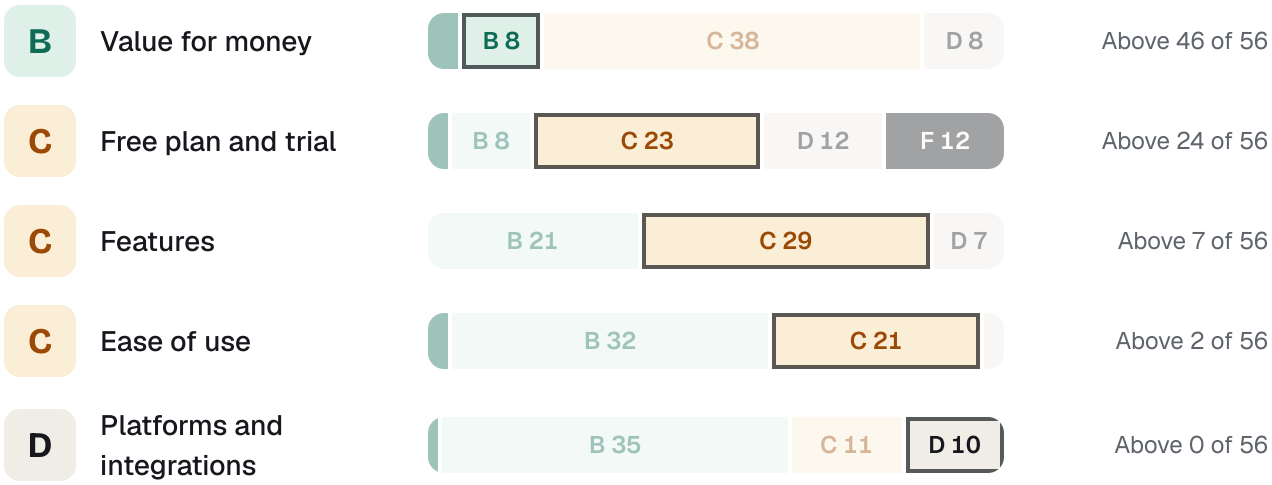
Other antivirus apps it is graded above

Spybot Search & Destroy's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 14 of the 56 other antivirus apps we grade, and level with 11.

It stands best on value for money (B, above 46 of 56) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 57 antivirus apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. Spybot Search & Destroy's own letter is outlined.



Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Spybot Search & Destroy you would be making an engine that recognises new malware as it appears. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 31 of the 56 other antivirus apps grade higher.

What you could not

- ✕ An engine that recognises new malware as it appears.
- ✕ Readings from inside the operating system.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. Spybot Search & Destroy's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Malwarebytes, Emsisoft Anti-Malware, SUPERAntiSpyware, GridinSoft Anti-Malware and Zemana AntiMalware

The 5 tools Spybot Search & Destroy is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.2 GPA

Malwarebytes

Free plan · from $59.99/yr

Malware scanner and real-time protection, with VPN and ID plans.

- Only Malwarebytes lists macOS, Android and iOS apps.
- Only Malwarebytes lists a browser extension.
- Spybot Search & Destroy also covers system monitor.

Spybot Search & Destroy and Malwarebytes compared in full

2.4 GPA

Emsisoft Anti-Malware

Free trial · from $39.95/yr

Dual-engine malware scanner for home PCs, with a web console.

- Spybot Search & Destroy has a free plan. Emsisoft Anti-Malware does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Emsisoft Anti-Malware lists a macOS app.
- Spybot Search & Destroy also covers system monitor.

Spybot Search & Destroy and Emsisoft Anti-Malware compared in full



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GPA

SUPERAntiSpyware

Free plan · from $19.99/yr

Windows anti-spyware scanner, free or Professional X.

- Spybot Search & Destroy also covers system monitor.
- SUPERAntiSpyware also covers ad and tracker blocking.

Spybot Search & Destroy and SUPERAntiSpyware compared in full



2.0
GPA

GridinSoft Anti-Malware

Free trial · from $39.95/yr

Windows malware remover that runs beside Microsoft Defender.

- Spybot Search & Destroy has a free plan. GridinSoft Anti-Malware does not, though it has a free trial.

Spybot Search & Destroy and GridinSoft Anti-Malware compared in full

Z

1.4
GPA

Zemana AntiMalware

Paid

Windows malware scanner and removal tool.

- Spybot Search & Destroy has a free plan. Zemana AntiMalware does not.

Spybot Search & Destroy and Zemana AntiMalware compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

10

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Spybot Search & Destroy free?

Spybot Search & Destroy has a free plan. The Free edition provides Spybot's anti-spyware at no charge; the vendor recommends its paid +Antivirus editions for protection against all kinds of malware.

How much does Spybot Search & Destroy cost?

Spybot Search & Destroy lists 5 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Spybot Search & Destroy work on?

Spybot Search & Destroy is available on Windows.

Does Spybot Search & Destroy have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Spybot Search & Destroy is listed for Windows.

Does Spybot Search & Destroy have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Spybot Search & Destroy is listed for Windows.

Is Spybot Search & Destroy open source?

Spybot Search & Destroy is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Who makes Spybot Search & Destroy?

Spybot Search & Destroy is made by Safer-Networking Ltd.

What are the alternatives to Spybot Search & Destroy?

The closest alternatives to Spybot Search & Destroy in our directory are Malwarebytes, Emsisoft Anti-Malware, SUPERAntiSpyware, GridinSoft Anti-Malware and Zemana AntiMalware.

How does Spybot Search & Destroy compare with other antivirus apps?

Spybot Search & Destroy's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 14 of the 56 other antivirus apps we grade, and level with 11.

Could I make my own version of Spybot Search & Destroy?

To replace Spybot Search & Destroy you would be making an engine that recognises new malware as it appears.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Spybot Search & Destroy's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Safer-Networking's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Safer-Networking Ltd. Prices change, so check safer-networking.org before you buy.

safer-networking.org/
safer-networking.org/compare-spybot-editions/
safer-networking.org/products/
safer-networking.org/features/live-protection/

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Spybot Search & Destroy, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/spybot-search-and-destroy

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Spybot Search & Destroy: The Insider's Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/spybot-search-and-destroy
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ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded antivirus apps after Spybot Search & Destroy, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Antivirus & Malware Protection Insider's Guide

Every one of the 57 antivirus apps we grade, compared

Avast Insider's Guide

Free antivirus for PC, Mac and phones, with paid Premium and Ultimate

3.0 GPA

AVG Insider's Guide

Free antivirus for Windows, with paid Internet Security and Ultimate

2.8 GPA

Bitdefender Insider's Guide

Antivirus suites for computers and phones, with a free Windows tier

2.8 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

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Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Spybot Search & Destroy's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Spybot Search & Destroy is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Safer-Networking Ltd. Prices and plans change: check safer-networking.org before you buy.