ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Wallpaper Engine

The Insider’s Guide

Animated live wallpapers for Windows, bought once on Steam



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from Wallpaper Engine’s own pages.

Made by Wallpaper Engine Team · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
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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 Wallpaper Engine's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Wallpaper Engine's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

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

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GPA, above 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

Wallpaper Engine plays animated wallpapers on the Windows desktop, built from images, videos, websites or scenes made in its own editor. Wallpapers come free from the Steam Workshop, and the app pauses them while games or maximized apps are running. A free Android app can receive wallpapers from a Windows PC.

> "
>
> **You install it from Steam and subscribe to wallpapers.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about Wallpaper Engine**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

1 **Best for animated wallpapers on a Windows desktop**

There is no free version or trial, you need Steam for the Workshop and updates, and the Android app only receives wallpapers from your PC.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at $4.99 one-time.

3 **It runs on 2 platforms**

Windows and Android.

4 **Live wallpapers**

Animate your own images or import videos and websites as desktop wallpapers.

5 **Steam Workshop library**

The vendor says hundreds of thousands of wallpapers are free to subscribe to through the Steam Workshop.

6 **Automatic pausing**

Pauses or unloads the wallpaper while a game or maximized app is running, and can pause on laptop battery power.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 69 of 186**

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

8 **Your call**

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

Wallpaper Engine at a glance

PRICING Paid, from $4.99 one-time	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Windows, Android
MADE BY Wallpaper Engine Team	CATEGORY Desktop Utilities
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for animated wallpapers on a Windows desktop

Wallpaper Engine plays animated wallpapers on a Windows desktop for $4.99 once, with a large library on the Steam Workshop. There is no free version or trial, you need Steam for the Workshop and updates, and the Android app only receives wallpapers from your PC.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **Wallpaper Engine** Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	$4.99 once, no subscription, and one purchase covers all your computers. That is far under the category's cheaper quarter.
Free plan and trial	F	No free plan and no trial. The Android app is free but only works with wallpapers sent from a Windows computer.
Features	B	Live wallpapers, a Workshop library, automatic pausing, playlists, an editor and RGB sync. Nothing in the listing is missing from the job.
Ease of use	B	No rating on record. You install it from Steam and subscribe to wallpapers.
Platforms and integrations	B	Windows 10 and 11, plus an Android companion app. The Android app only receives wallpapers, and the listed integrations are Steam, iCUE and Chroma.
Grade point average		Good, out of 4.0 **2.6**

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 Wallpaper Engine is for

- ✓ Fits if you want animated backgrounds on a Windows desktop
- ✓ Works for people who want to build and share their own wallpapers

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want to try before buying, as there is no trial
- ✕ Not for you if you use Mac or Linux, as the main app is Windows 10 and 11 only
- ✕ Watch out: Steam is needed to download or upload Workshop wallpapers and to install updates
- ✕ Watch out: the Android app can't make wallpapers, it only receives them

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows desktops where the owner wants animated backgrounds
- ✓ Creators who want to build and share their own wallpapers

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The main app is Windows 10 and 11 only; the Android app only receives wallpapers sent from a Windows computer.
- ⓘ Steam is needed to download or upload Workshop wallpapers and to install updates, though core features run without it.
- ⓘ The price was read from the Steam store listing, which the vendor's site links to for purchase.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$4.99 one-time

To start

Wallpaper Engine is a paid product, starting at $4.99 one-time.

> **That is far under the category's cheaper quarter.**

From our grade for value for money

WALLPAPER ENGINE

$4.99

one-time, no subscription

Windows app with Steam Workshop wallpapers, install on as many computers as you like. The Android app is free.

Read from store.steampowered.com on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

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

2

Places it runs: Windows and Android

Animated live wallpapers for Windows, bought once on Steam. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: works offline, one-time purchase, templates.

> **Live wallpapers, a Workshop library, automatic pausing, playlists, an editor and RGB sync.**
>
> From our grade for features

Live wallpapers

Animate your own images or import videos and websites as desktop wallpapers.

Steam Workshop library

The vendor says hundreds of thousands of wallpapers are free to subscribe to through the Steam Workshop.

Automatic pausing

Pauses or unloads the wallpaper while a game or maximized app is running, and can pause on laptop battery power.

Playlists and slideshows

Changes the wallpaper at set intervals or times of day, at sign-in, or when a chosen app launches.

Editor

Builds animated scenes with a particle system editor and SceneScript for custom behavior.

RGB lighting sync

Can control Corsair iCUE and Razer Chroma hardware to match the wallpaper.

Where it runs

Windows · Android

What it works with

Steam Workshop · Corsair iCUE · Razer Chroma

Wallpaper Engine is made by Wallpaper Engine Team.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

69/186

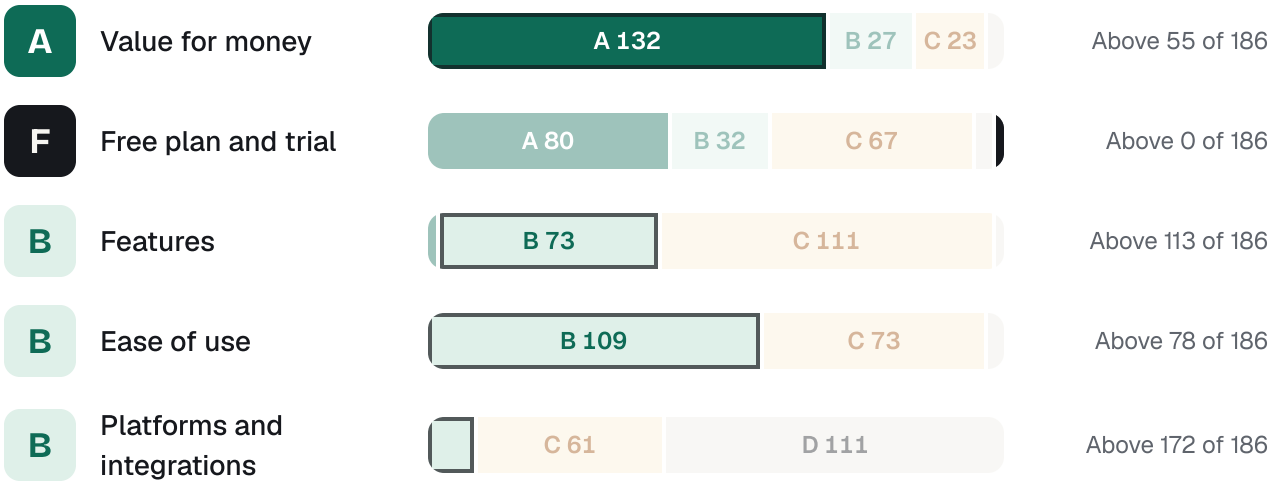
Other desktop utilities it is graded above

Wallpaper Engine's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 46.

It stands best on value for money (A, above 55 of 186) and worst on free plan and trial (F, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 187 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. Wallpaper Engine'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.

Your call

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

You could make the core of Wallpaper Engine for yourself: templates. What you would give up is listed below. Whether that is worth the price is your call. At $4.99, paid once, it costs less than the weekend it would take to replace, which is the argument for keeping it.

What you could make

- Templates: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Apps for Windows and Android that stay in step with each other.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Wallpaper Engine'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



Rainmeter, Fences and Microsoft PowerToys

The 3 tools Wallpaper Engine is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.



2.6 GPA

Rainmeter

Free

Free Windows desktop customization tool with community skins.

- Rainmeter has a free plan. Wallpaper Engine does not.
- Only Wallpaper Engine lists an Android app.
- Wallpaper Engine can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Wallpaper Engine and Rainmeter compared in full

F

2.4 GPA

Fences

Free trial · from $9.99/yr

Windows desktop organizer that groups icons into shaded areas.

- Only Wallpaper Engine lists an Android app.
- Wallpaper Engine also covers templates.
- Fences also covers file management.

Wallpaper Engine and Fences compared in full



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GPA

Microsoft PowerToys

Free

Free Microsoft utilities for customizing Windows 10 and 11.

- Microsoft PowerToys has a free plan. Wallpaper Engine does not.
- Only Wallpaper Engine lists an Android app.
- Wallpaper Engine can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Wallpaper Engine and Microsoft PowerToys compared in full

Quick answers

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

12

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 Wallpaper Engine free?

No. Wallpaper Engine is a paid product, starting at $4.99 one-time.

How much does Wallpaper Engine cost?

Wallpaper Engine lists one plan. Wallpaper Engine: $4.99 one-time, no subscription.

What platforms does Wallpaper Engine work on?

Wallpaper Engine is available on Windows and Android.

Does Wallpaper Engine have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Wallpaper Engine is listed for Windows and Android.

Does Wallpaper Engine have a macOS app?

No macOS app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Wallpaper Engine is listed for Windows and Android.

Is Wallpaper Engine open source?

Wallpaper Engine is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Does Wallpaper Engine work offline?

Yes, according to its own site. What works without a connection differs by plan and platform, so check the vendor's page for the detail.

What does Wallpaper Engine integrate with?

Wallpaper Engine's listing names Steam Workshop, Corsair iCUE and Razer Chroma.

Who makes Wallpaper Engine?

Wallpaper Engine is made by Wallpaper Engine Team.

What are the alternatives to Wallpaper Engine?

The closest alternatives to Wallpaper Engine in our directory are Rainmeter, Fences and Microsoft PowerToys.

How does Wallpaper Engine compare with other desktop utilities?

Wallpaper Engine's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 69 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 46.

Could I make my own version of Wallpaper Engine?

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Wallpaper Engine's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Wallpaper Engine's own pages on 12 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 Wallpaper Engine Team. Prices change, so check wallpaperengine.io before you buy.

wallpaperengine.io/en

store.steampowered.com/app/431960/Wallpaper...

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

Wallpaper Engine, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/wallpaper-engine

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, "Wallpaper Engine: The Insider's Guide", checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/wallpaper-engine
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/wallpaper-engine/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after Wallpaper Engine, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 187 desktop utilities we grade, compared

Just Color Picker Insider's Guide

Free portable color picker and editor for Windows and macOS

3.2 GPA

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

3.2 GPA

Mos Insider's Guide

Free Mac menu bar utility for smooth mouse wheel scrolling

3.2 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Wallpaper Engine'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. Wallpaper Engine is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Wallpaper Engine Team. Prices and plans change: check wallpaperengine.io before you buy.