Robots.txt checklist + copy-paste templates

SEOs Hut
AI-FIRST LOCAL SEO AGENCY

Tick each line before you save. Free from SEOs Hut, no signup.

The checklist

- [ ] **One file at the root.** yoursite.com/robots.txt, lowercase name, one per subdomain.
- [ ] **Start from your platform default.** WordPress, Shopify and Wix write one. Edit it, don't replace it blindly.
- [ ] **Block crawl traps only.** Admin, internal search, cart, checkout, endless filters.
- [ ] **Never use it to hide a page.** Allow the crawl and add noindex. Private content needs a password.
- [ ] **Never block CSS or JavaScript.** On WordPress, never block /wp-includes/ or /wp-content/.
- [ ] **List the sitemap as a full URL.** Sitemap: https://yoursite.com/sitemap.xml
- [ ] **Check rule order.** Longest rule wins, ties go to Allow, paths are case-sensitive, only * and $.
- [ ] **Delete dead rules.** noindex, nofollow and crawl-delay are ignored by Google.
- [ ] **Choose AI bots by name.** Keep OAI-SearchBot, Claude-SearchBot, PerplexityBot open to appear in AI answers.
- [ ] **Test, then tell Google.** Re-test, then Request a recrawl in the Search Console robots.txt report.

How to check it worked

1. Open yoursite.com/robots.txt. The new text should show.
2. Paste it into the free tester at seoshut.com/blog/robots-txt-best-practices and test your homepage, a service page and one blocked URL.
3. Search Console, Settings, robots.txt: confirm it fetched, then Request a recrawl.
4. Run seoshut.com/tools/ai-crawler-checker to see which AI bots can reach you.

Templates (swap in your domain)

1. WordPress

```
User-agent: *
Disallow: /wp-admin/
Allow: /wp-admin/admin-ajax.php
Disallow: /?s=
Disallow: /search/

Sitemap: https://yoursite.com/sitemap_index.xml
```

2. Any other site: allow everything

```
User-agent: *
Disallow:

Sitemap: https://yoursite.com/sitemap.xml
```

3. Optional: keep AI search, opt out of AI training

```
User-agent: OAI-SearchBot
User-agent: Claude-SearchBot
User-agent: PerplexityBot
Allow: /

User-agent: GPTBot
User-agent: ClaudeBot
User-agent: Google-Extended
User-agent: Applebot-Extended
User-agent: CCBot
Disallow: /
```

Staging copy only: block everything

```
User-agent: *
Disallow: /
```