

# How to Turn On “Safe Search” features of Search Engines

by Doug Fodeman, Director of Technology, Brookwood School;  
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Nearly every major search engine on the internet comes with the ability to filter out most “adult” web content that is not appropriate for children. Unfortunately, none of the search engines have this feature turned on to its strictest settings by default. Below are a list of all major search engines with instructions how to turn on the strict web filtering feature known as “safe searching”.

Please keep in mind, however, that just as you can turn this feature on, a savvy child can also turn this feature off. Also, in order for these features to work you must FIRST log in to the computer account to which you want them to apply! If you have more than one child’s log-in on a computer then you will need to log in as each child and turn this feature on for each web site. The time spent doing this is well worth the effort!

Please note that there are also some very good child-centered search engines on the internet. Here are the top three:

[www.dibdabdoo.com](http://www.dibdabdoo.com)

[www.ajkids.com](http://www.ajkids.com)

[www.kidsclick.org](http://www.kidsclick.org)

[www.yahooligans.com](http://www.yahooligans.com)

## **SPECIAL NOTE ABOUT YouTube:**

In 2010, YouTube provided a "Safety Mode" feature to try to minimize the availability of videos that contain potentially objectionable material. It is not perfect but it does help. It can be found at the bottom of each YouTube page. Keep in mind that this feature DOES NOT act as a filter for the horrible language and content often found in the comments underneath videos.

### **A. [GOOGLE.COM](http://GOOGLE.COM)**

1. Click the word **Search Settings** which is located in the upper right corner of the window.
2. The third item down is **Safe Search Filtering**. Select the radio button for “Use Strict Filtering”
3. Be sure to click the button at the top or bottom right that says “Save Preferences”.

### **B. [BING.COM](http://BING.COM)**

1. Click the word **Preferences** which is located in the upper right corner of the window.
2. The first item down is **Safe Search**. Select the radio button for “Strict Filtering”

3. Be sure to click the button at the top or bottom right that says "Save Settings".

C. [YAHOO.COM](http://YAHOO.COM)

1. Click into the Yahoo search field and enter any word such as "test" and hit enter.
  2. Yahoo will return a set of links. Just to the right of the search field find the drop down menu called **Options**. Click it and select **Preferences**.
  3. Safe Search is the fourth feature on the list. Click the Edit link to the right of it.
  4. Select the top radio button "Filter out adult Web, video, and image search results - SafeSearch On"
  5. Click the Save button at the top or bottom of the window.
- NOTE: Safe search may only work when logged into a Yahoo account

D. [ASKJEEVES.COM](http://ASKJEEVES.COM) (Also called [ASK.COM](http://ASK.COM))

1. In the very upper right corner of your screen, click on the word **Settings**.
2. Select the third item down the list: **Content Filtering**. Click the radio button for "Filter my search results - filters search results."
3. Click OK or "Save My Settings"

E. [ALLTHEWEB.COM](http://ALLTHEWEB.COM)

1. Click the word **Customized Preferences** which is located just to the right of the search field.
2. The first item down is **Offensive Content Filter**. Select the "on" radio button.
3. Be sure to click the button at the bottom that says "Save and Apply Preferences".

F. [SEARCH.AOL.COM](http://SEARCH.AOL.COM)

1. Click the word **Settings** located at the top of the window.
2. Select "Use Strict Filtering" under Safe Search.
3. Click "Save Settings"

G. [HOTBOT.COM](http://HOTBOT.COM)

1. Click the word **Add** which is located under the search field and next to "Custom Web Filters".
2. Look for the item **Block Offensive Content**. Click the check box next to these words AND click "Always" to the right of this line item.
3. Be sure to click the **Save** button at the bottom of this list.

H. [SEARCH.COM](http://SEARCH.COM)

1. Click the word "Settings" located in the upper right corner of the window.
2. Look for the Safe Search options.
3. Under Safe Search options click all 3 check boxes and then click OK.

I. [CUIL.COM](http://CUIL.COM) (pronounced "cool".com)

1. Click the word **Preferences** just below the search field.
2. Click the radio button "ON" for Safe Search.
2. Click "Save" at the bottom of the window.

NOTE: The following search engines offer no ability to filter offensive content. IceRocket.com, Mama.com, Hakia.com, Scoopler.com, OneRiot.com, Gigablast.com

**The following are known as "Meta-Directories" because they search multiple search engines at once:**

**M. [DOGPILE.COM](http://dogpile.com)**

1. Click the word **Preferences** which is located just to the right of the search field.
2. The first item down is **Search Filter**. Select the radio button for " Filter: Heavy - All results will be filtered, including Web and Multimedia Search results with as much explicit context removed as possible."
3. Be sure to click the button at the bottom of the window that says "Save Settings".

**N. [EXCITE.COM](http://excite.com)**

1. Click into the search field and enter any word such as "test" and hit enter.
2. Excite.com will return a set of links. Click the word to the right of **Safe Search**, which will appear in grey under the black heading.
3. Under the Safe Search popup to appear, select: Heavy.

**O. [WEBCRAWLER.COM](http://webcrawler.com)**

1. Click the word **Preferences** which is located to the right of the search field.
2. The first item down is **Search Filter**. Select the radio button for " Filter: Heavy - All results will be filtered, including Web and Multimedia Search results with as much explicit context removed as possible."
3. Be sure to click the button at the bottom of the window that says "Save Settings".

**NOTE:** Surfmax.com, IceRocket.com, Kartoo.com, Clusty.com and Frazzle.com have no ability to filter out adult content.

**Disclaimer:** Changes may occur to web pages over time that may make some of these instructions inaccurate. The ability to turn on "Safe Searching" however, will still likely be a feature that most all search engines and meta-directories will support.