

Windows 11 Security Starter Checklist

A quick, non-technical overview of the key areas I evaluate during a professional EndpointGuard hardening session.

1 Account & Update Readiness

Your foundation for security begins here:

-  Strong, unique device login or passphrase
-  Microsoft account secured with MFA
-  Windows Update installing important updates regularly

Why it matters: Weak accounts or outdated systems create easy openings for attackers.

2 Core Malware & Threat Protection

A system should have its essential protections active:

-  Defender (or reputable AV) running normally
-  Real-time and cloud-delivered protection enabled
-  Recent security scan completed without issues

Why it matters: These baseline protections catch threats before they become real problems.

3 Firewall & Network Exposure Check

Make sure your device isn't too open:

-  Windows Firewall is turned on for your main network
-  File sharing disabled on public Wi-Fi
-  Auto-connect networks reviewed and recognized

Why it matters: Most people don't realize how exposed their device becomes on unfamiliar networks.

4 Safe Browsing & Download Behavior

Your browser is the #1 attack surface:

-  SmartScreen or safe-browsing features on
-  No suspicious toolbars or extensions

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-  Apps installed only from trusted locations

Why it matters: The majority of modern attacks start through downloads and browsing.

5 Device Security & Encryption Status

Helps protect your data and system integrity:

-  Basic hardware security features supported
-  Device encryption (BitLocker) is enabled if available
-  No repeated security warnings or disabled features

Why it matters: Encryption protects your data even if your laptop is lost or stolen.

6 Privacy & App Permissions

Reduce unnecessary tracking and limit app access:

-  Personalized ads / tracking minimized
-  Camera, mic, and location only used by apps that truly need them
-  Startup apps reviewed to reduce background risk & clutter

Why it matters: Privacy settings directly impact how your data is collected and shared.

Remember:

This checklist is a **starting point**, not a full security hardening.

Every system is different — hardware, drivers, user behavior, workloads, installed software — and your baseline should reflect that.

When you want everything:

- configured correctly,
- verified with proper checks,
- and organized into a clean, easy-to-understand report...

 That's exactly what **EndpointGuard** is designed to do.

Just reply to the email with **"SECURE MY PC"**, and I'll walk you through the next steps.