How to Remove "wordpress" From Your Site URL

Do you have a website URL that shows "wordpress" as part of the domain? This is somewhat common. It happens when WordPress is accidentally installed as a subdomain or in a separate folder as opposed to the root directory. For instance, a website could look like "https://www.ggexample.com/wordpress/."

Instead of reinstalling WordPress altogether, you can easily change how the URL appears in web browsers.

Today in this tutorial, I'm going to show you how to remove the "wordpress" from your domain name. Although it's not all that difficult, you will have to make a couple of minor changes to the .htaccess and index.php file of your site.

Change the Site Address in WordPress

Before you continue, I strongly urge you to create a backup copy of your site. In the event something goes wrong, you can easily restore your data without causing further problems.
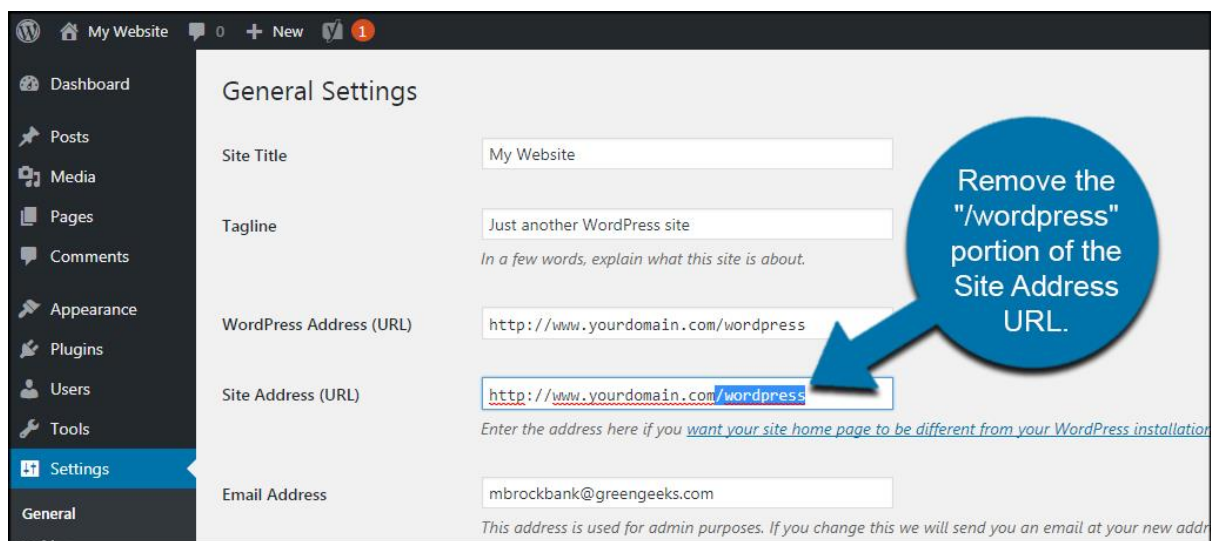
The first thing you'll need to do is change the "Site Address" in your WordPress admin dashboard.

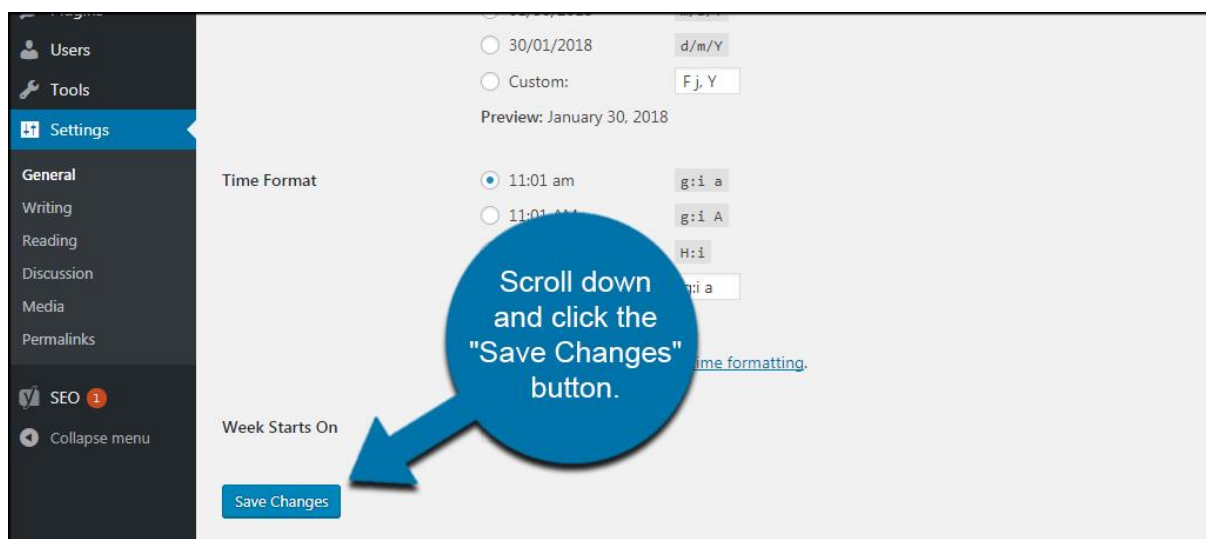Go to the Settings area in the WordPress dashboard.
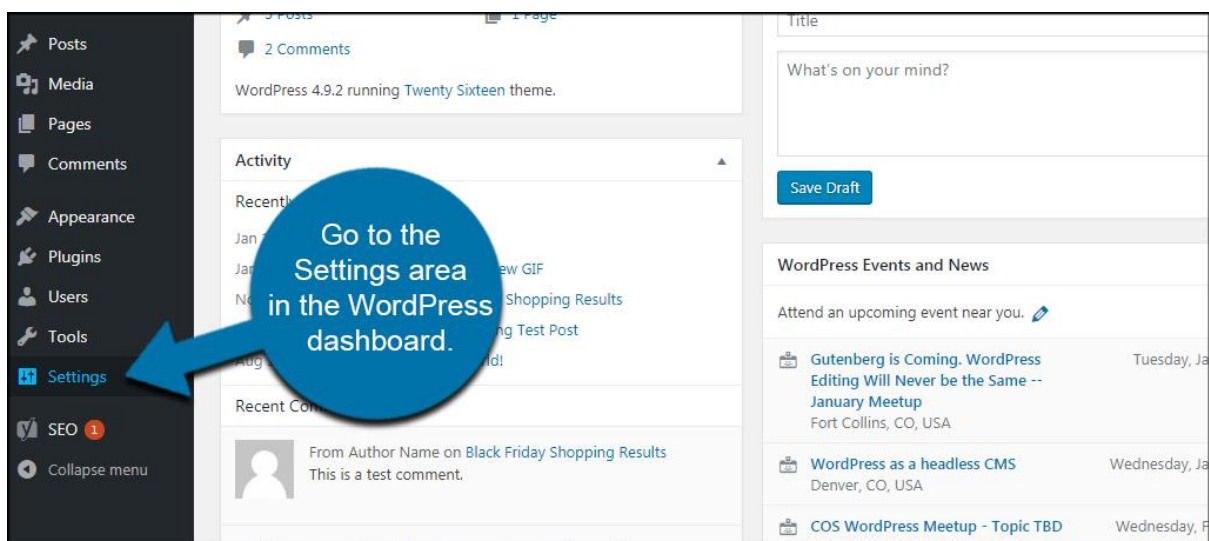
Remove the "/wordpress" portion of the Site Address URL.

Scroll down and click the "Save Changes" button.

Download index.php and .htaccess

Next, you'll need to copy the index.php and .htaccess files from the "[your domain]/wordpress" folder from your website.

You have a couple of ways to do this. A lot of people prefer using FTP programs like FileZilla to connect to the web host and download the file. You can also use cPanel's File Manager to access your website's directory from a web browser.

For this tutorial, I'm going to use cPanel only because it's quicker for this instance.

Go to the root folder for your domain. It may be empty except for a folder labeled, "wordpress." You can access this from the "public_html" directory in your web host.
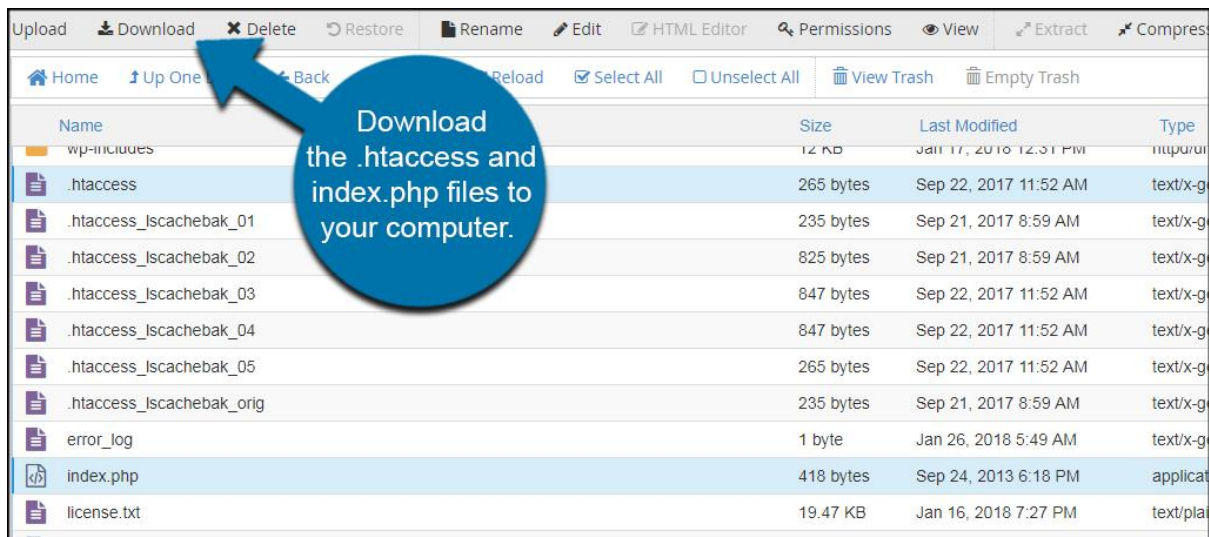
Open the "wordpress" folder.
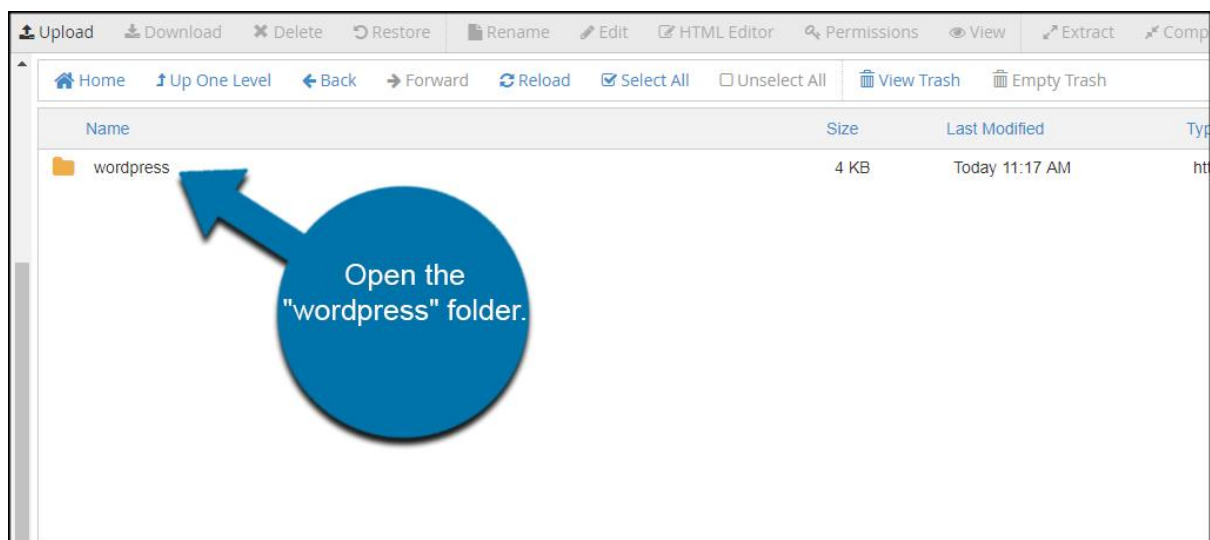
You may have to enable hidden files to see .htaccess. If you're using File Manager, you can do this by clicking the Settings button and choosing "Show Hidden Files."
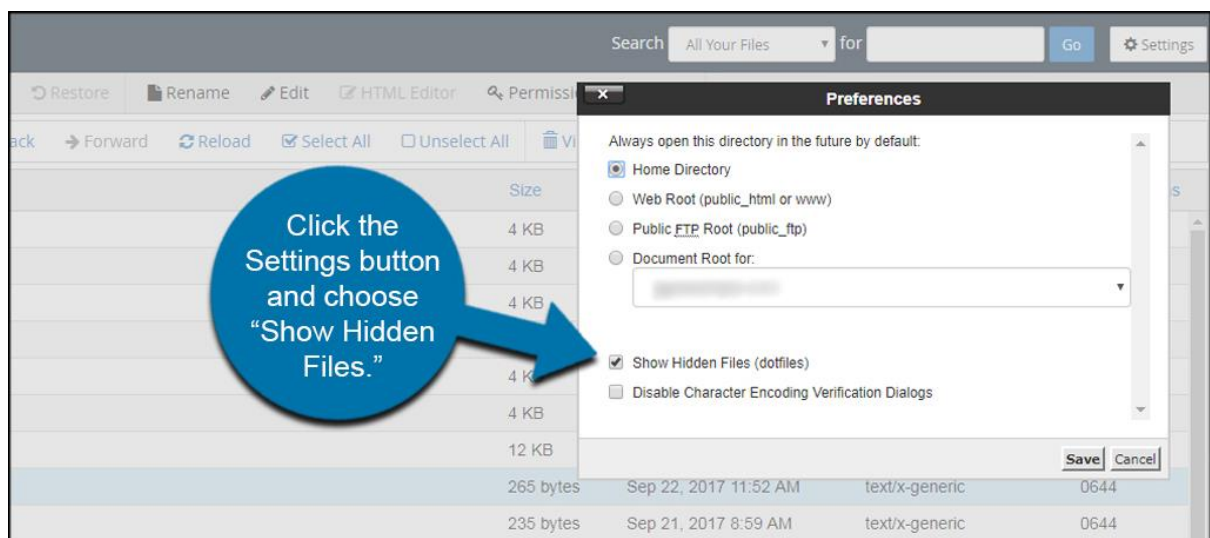
A similar option is available in FileZilla.

Download the .htaccess and index.php files to your computer.

Although you won't make edits to the .htaccess file in this tutorial, you'll need it copied into the root directory. This is because .htaccess is used to control how people and search engines access content. Since you're removing WordPress from the URL, you'll need it in the root folder.

I suggest saving the files to your desktop. It makes it easier to find them in the next step. If you don't have the option to choose where files are saved, look in your "Downloads" folder of your computer.
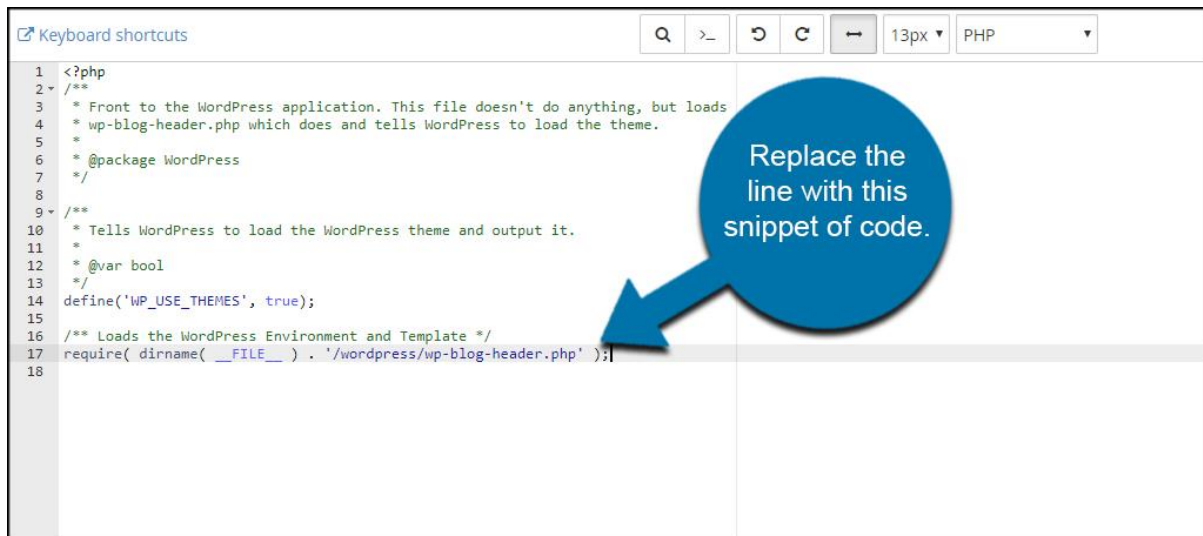
Editing the index.php File

To make changes in the index.php file, you'll need a text editor of some kind. For PC users, you can open the file with something like Notepad.

Look for this line in the index.php file:[ht_message mstyle="info" title="" show_icon="" id="" class="" style=""]require(dirname(__FILE__) . '/wp-blog-header.php');[/ht_message]

Replace the line with this snippet of code:[ht_message mstyle="info" title="" show_icon="" id="" class="" style=""]require(dirname(__FILE__) . '/wordpress/wp-blog-header.php');[/ht_message]

This line tells a visitor's web browser the actual data it needs is located in the "/wordpress" sub folder. It acts almost like a redirect by pulling information from the WordPress folder without users realizing it.

Once you've replaced the code, save the index.php file.

Uploading index.php and .htaccess

Upload the index.php and .htaccess files from your computer to the root directory of your website. DO NOT upload them back into the "/wordpress" sub folder.
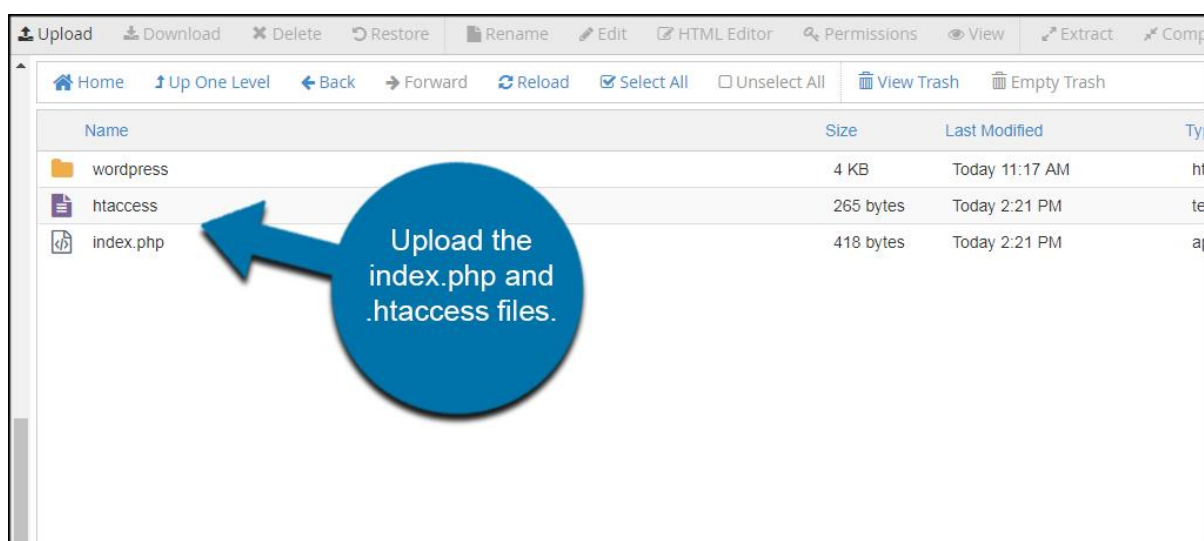
Now with the files in the root folder, your website will look something like "https://www.ggexample.com" to visitors.

However, you will still need to use the "/wordpress/wp-admin" URL to access the admin area of WordPress.

Can you just reinstall WordPress into the root directory?

While you could install WordPress in the near-empty root folder, it's far more work. This is especially true if you have a database full of content, settings and modifications. If it's a new install, then you won't lose a lot of data and time.

If you decide to reinstall, it's probably easier to copy WordPress from the sub folder to the root using cloning or copying plugins. Many of these will easily transfer all data and files.