

# Environment Variables Reference

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Complete reference for all environment variables used in the Yalla London CMS.






## Environment Variables Table

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Variable	Description	Example	Required	Default
DATABASE_URL	PostgreSQL connection string	postgresql://user:pass@host:5432/db	✓	-
NEXTAUTH_SECRET	NextAuth.js secret (32+ chars)	abcd1234e-fgh5678...	✓	-
NEXTAUTH_URL	Application base URL	https://yalla-london.com	✓	-
AWS_BUCKET_NAME	S3 bucket name	yalla-london-production	✓	-
AWS_FOLDER_PREFIX	S3 folder prefix	production/	⚠	" "
AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID	AWS access key	AKIA...	✓	-
AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY	AWS secret key	your-secret-key	✓	-
AWS_REGION	AWS region	us-east-1	⚠	us-east-1
AWS_ENDPOINT_URL	Custom S3 endpoint (R2)	https://account.r2.cloudflarestorage.com	✗	-
ABACUS_AI_API_KEY	AI content generation	your-abacus-key	✓	-
FEATURE_SEO	Enable SEO features	1	✗	0
FEATURE_EMBEDS	Enable social embeds	1	✗	0
FEATURE_MEDIA	Enable media library	1	✗	0
FEATURE_HOMEPAGE_BUILDER	Enable homepage builder	1	✗	0
	GA4 measurement ID	G-XXXXXXXXXX	✗	-

Variable	Description	Example	Required	Default
NEXT_PUBLIC_GOOGLE_ANALYTICS_ID				
GOOGLE_SEARCH_CONSOLE_KEY	GSC API key	your-gsc-key	✗	-
GOOGLE_SEARCH_CONSOLE_CX	Custom search engine ID	your-search-engine-id	✗	-
SENTRY_DSN	Error tracking URL	https://key@sentry.io/project	✗	-
SENTRY_ENVIRONMENT	Environment name	production	✗	development
SMTP_HOST	Email server host	smtp.gmail.com	✗	-
SMTP_PORT	Email server port	587	✗	587
SMTP_USER	Email username	noreply@yallalondon.com	✗	-
SMTP_PASSWORD	Email password	your-email-password	✗	-
NODE_ENV	Runtime environment	production	✗	development
NEXT_PUBLIC_APP_URL	Public app URL	https://yallalondon.com	✗	http://localhost:3000

## Legend

-  **Required:** Must be set for application to function
-  **Recommended:** Should be set for production
-  **Optional:** Enables additional features when set

## Environment-Specific Notes

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### Development (.env.local)

```
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://localhost:5432/yalla_london_dev"
NEXTAUTH_URL="http://localhost:3000"
AWS_BUCKET_NAME="yalla-london-dev"
NODE_ENV="development"
```

### Staging (.env.staging)

```
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://staging-db.neon.tech:5432/yalla_london_staging"
NEXTAUTH_URL="https://yalla-london-staging.vercel.app"
AWS_BUCKET_NAME="yalla-london-staging"
AWS_FOLDER_PREFIX="staging/"
NODE_ENV="staging"
```

### Production (.env.production)

```
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://prod-db.neon.tech:5432/yalla_london_prod"
NEXTAUTH_URL="https://yalla-london.com"
AWS_BUCKET_NAME="yalla-london-production"
AWS_FOLDER_PREFIX="production/"
NODE_ENV="production"
```

## Security Guidelines

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### Secret Management

- Never commit secrets to version control
- Use environment variable management systems (Vercel, Railway, etc.)
- Rotate secrets regularly
- Use least-privilege IAM policies

### Database Security

- Always use SSL mode ( ?sslmode=require )
- Use connection pooling in production
- Regularly backup and test restore procedures
- Monitor for suspicious queries

### API Keys

- Use separate keys for each environment
- Implement rate limiting
- Monitor usage and costs
- Restrict API key permissions to minimum required

## Validation Commands

### Check Required Variables

```
# Verify all required variables are set
node -e "
const required = ['DATABASE_URL', 'NEXTAUTH_SECRET', 'NEXTAUTH_URL',
  'AWS_BUCKET_NAME'];
const missing = required.filter(key => !process.env[key]);
if (missing.length) {
  console.error('✗ Missing required variables:', missing.join(', '));
  process.exit(1);
} else {
  console.log('✓ All required environment variables are set');
}
"
```

### Test Database Connection

```
# Test PostgreSQL connection
psql "$DATABASE_URL" -c "SELECT version();"
```

### Test S3 Connection

```
# List S3 bucket (requires AWS CLI)
aws s3 ls s3://$AWS_BUCKET_NAME/
```

### Test Feature Flags

```
# Check which features are enabled
node -e "
const features = ['SEO', 'EMBEDS', 'MEDIA', 'HOMEPAGE_BUILDER'];
features.forEach(feature => {
  const enabled = process.env[`FEATURE_${feature}`] === '1';
  console.log(`${enabled ? '✓' : '✗'} FEATURE_${feature}: ${enabled}`);
});
"
```

## Troubleshooting

### Common Issues

#### “Invalid DATABASE\_URL”

- Check connection string format
- Verify SSL mode is included
- Test connection with `psql` directly

#### “S3 Access Denied”

- Verify AWS credentials are correct
- Check IAM policy permissions
- Confirm bucket name and region

**“Feature not working”**

- Check feature flag is set to 1
- Verify related environment variables
- Check browser console for errors

**“NextAuth error”**

- Ensure NEXTAUTH\_SECRET is 32+ characters
- Verify NEXTAUTH\_URL matches deployed URL
- Check for HTTPS in production

**Debug Commands**

```
# Check all environment variables
env | grep -E "(DATABASE|AWS|NEXT|FEATURE)" | sort

# Test API endpoints
curl -f "$NEXT_PUBLIC_APP_URL/api/health"

# Verify build with environment
yarn build 2>&1 | grep -i error
```