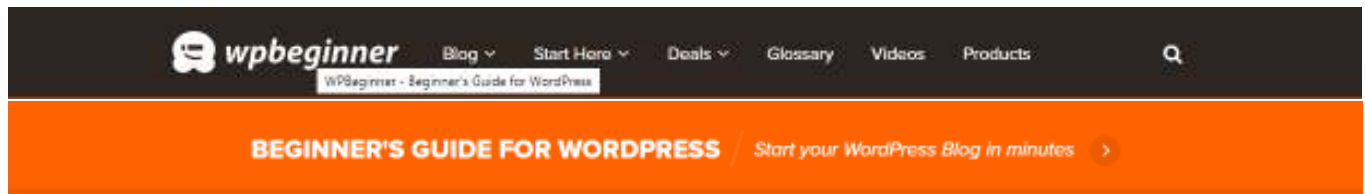


<https://www.wpbeginner.com/wp-tutorials/how-to-add-google-search-in-a-wordpress-site/>:



How to Add Google Search in a WordPress Site (wpbeginner.com)

Last updated on June 2nd, 2016 by [Editorial Staff](#)

Do you want to use Google search on your WordPress site? Although WordPress comes with a built-in search feature, it is not very good. That's why many site owners add Google site search on their WordPress site. In this article, we will show you how to easily add Google Search in a WordPress site.



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Why You Should Use Google Search in WordPress?

The default WordPress search feature is not very useful. It often fails to find the relevant results. This forces site owners to look for alternatives.

There are plenty of [search plugins for WordPress](#) like [SearchWP](#), [Swifttype](#), etc. The problem is that you still have to manage them, and they will have an impact on your server resources.

On the other hand, you can use Google's reliable and powerful search feature instead. It is free, allows you to limit the search to your sites only, and can be run from your own site.

Other benefits of using Google search are speed, users already trust Google brand, and you will not have to maintain or update it.

Having said that, let's see how you can easily add Google site search to your WordPress site.

To make it easy, we have created a video tutorial on how to add Google search that you can watch below.



However if you just want to follow text-instructions, then you can follow our step by step tutorial on how to add Google search in a WordPress site.

Method 1: Adding Google Search in WordPress with Plugin

This first method is easier and recommended for beginners. It allows you to add Google search to your WordPress site without modifying your theme files.

First thing you need to do is install and activate the [WP Google Search](#) plugin. For more details, see our step by step guide on [how to install a WordPress plugin](#).

Upon activation, you need to visit **Settings » WP Google Search** to setup the plugin.

WP Google Search by WebshopLogic

Settings page for WP Google Search

General Settings

Google Search Engine ID:

Register to Google Custom Search Engine and get your Google Search Engine ID
<https://www.google.com/cse/>
You will get a Google Search Engine ID like this: 012345678901234567890:0ijk_c
Enter this Google Search Engine ID here.

Display search box before search results: ☒

If this option is turned on, the search field will appear above the search results.

Support Overlay Display: ☐

If you set on Google CSE admin page that result set is displayed in Overlay mode, set this checkbox.
In this case search results will be displayed without loading a new search result.
If you do not use overlay display mode in GCSE, then clear this checkbox, because it can not be displayed correctly.

Use default corrections CSS: ☒

If this option is turned on, some css will be applied to search elements in case of most WordPress themes.

Search Page Target URL:

The plugin automatically generated a page for displaying search results. Please do not delete this page.

Save Changes

Settings

General

Writing

Reading

Discussion

Media

Permalinks

WP Google Search

The plugin will ask you to provide a Google Search Engine id. Here is how you will get a search engine ID.

Visit [Google Custom Search](https://www.google.com/cse/) website and click on New Search Engine link on the left.

New search engine

► Edit search engine

▼ Help

Help Center

Help forum

Support

Blog

Documentation

Terms of Service

Send Feedback

Enter the site name and click "Create" to create a search engine for your site. [Learn more](#)

Creating new Google Custom Search engine for your WordPress site

Sites to search

www.example.com

www.example.com

You can add any of the following:
Individual pages: [www.example.com/page.html](#)
Entire site: [www.mysite.com/*](#)
Parts of site: [www.example.com/docs/*](#) or [www.example.com/docs/](#)
Entire domain: [*.example.com](#)

If you want to search pages over entire web containing specific [schema.org](#) markups, click on "advanced" below.

Language

English

Name of the search engine

Example

Advanced Options

By clicking "Create", you agree with the [Terms of Service](#).

CREATE

Simply provide your WordPress site's URL in 'Sites to Search' field. Next, you need to choose the language of your website. Lastly, click on the create button to continue.

Google will now create your custom search engine and will show you a success message with links to further actions. You need to click on the control panel button to continue editing your search engine.

Congratulations!

go to Google custom search engine's control panel

You've successfully created your Custom search engine.

Add it to your site

Get code

View it on the web

Public URL

Modify your search engine

Control Panel



This will take you to the control panel for your custom search engine. First, you need to click on the 'Search engine ID' button and copy your search engine ID.

New search engine

Basics Make money Admin Indexing Advanced

Provide basic details and preferences for your search engine. [Learn more](#)

Search engine name

Example

Search engine description

Description of search engine.

Search engine keywords

Search engine keywords, e.g. climate 'global warming' 'greenhouse gases'

Edition

Free, with ads. [Upgrade to Site Search \(ads optional\)](#)

Details

Search engine ID Public URL Get code

Image search

OFF

Speech Input

ON

Language

Copy your Google custom search engine ID

Next, you need to click on the 'Look and Feel' section. Under the layout tab, select results only.

New search engine

Layout Themes Customize Thumbnails

Set the layout of your search engine. Click the save button to publish your changes. [Learn more](#)

Web search Image search

Overlay

Two page

Full width

Two column

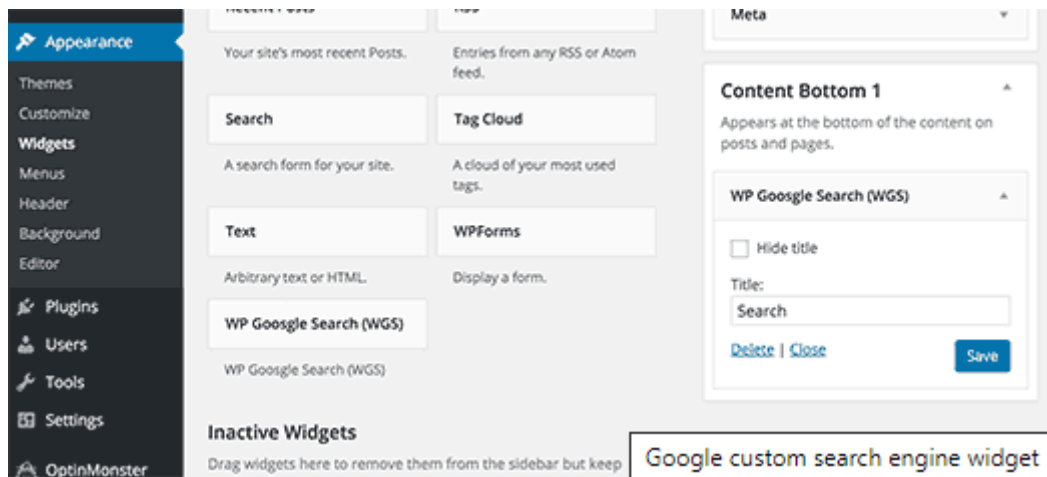
Compact

Results only

gcse-resultsonly

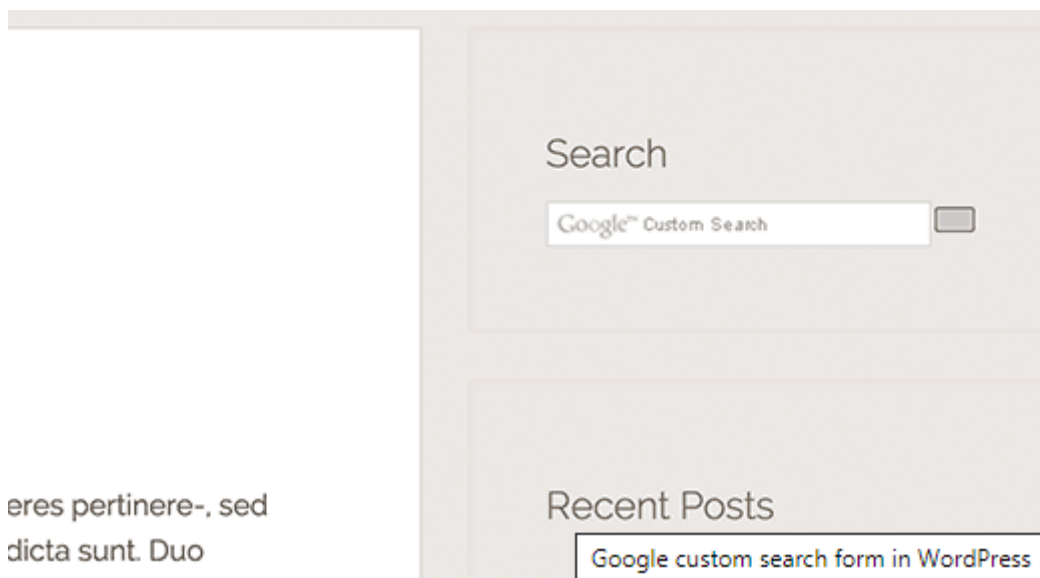
Once you are done, click on the save button at the bottom of the page to store your changes. Now you can switch back to your WordPress site. Paste the search engine ID you copied earlier in the WP Google Search's settings page and then click on the save changes button to store plugin settings.

After that you need to visit **Appearance » Widgets** page. There you will notice WP Google Search widget in the list of available widgets. Drag and drop the widget to a sidebar where you want to display the search form.



Click on the save button to store your widget settings.

You can now visit your website to see the search form in action.



Method 2: Manually Adding Google Search in WordPress

This method requires making changes to your WordPress theme or child theme files. It is not recommended for beginners. Make sure to [backup your WordPress site](#) before making any changes to your theme files.

Visit [Google Custom Search](#) website and click on New Search Engine link on the left.

New search engine

Enter the site name and click "Create" to create a search engine for your site. [Learn more](#)

► Edit search engine

▼ Help

- Help Center
- Help forum
- Support
- Blog
- Documentation
- Terms of Service

Send Feedback

Sites to search

www.example.com

www.example.com

You can add any of the following:

Individual pages: www.example.com/page.html
Entire site: www.mysite.com/*
Parts of site: www.example.com/docs/* or www.example.com/docs/
Entire domain: *.example.com

If you want to search pages over entire web containing specific schema.org markups, click on "advanced" below.

Language

English

Name of the search engine

Example

► Advanced Options

By clicking "Create", you agree with the [Terms of Service](#).

CREATE

Creating new Google Custom Search engine for your WordPress site

Simply provide your WordPress site's URL in 'Sites to Search' field. Next, you need to choose the language of your website. Lastly, click on the create button to continue.

Google will now create your custom search engine and will show you a success message with links to further actions. You need to click on the Get Code button to continue.

Congratulations!

[Get code for your Google custom search engine](#)

You've successfully created your Custom search engine.

Add it to your site

Get code

View it on the web

Public URL

Modify your search engine

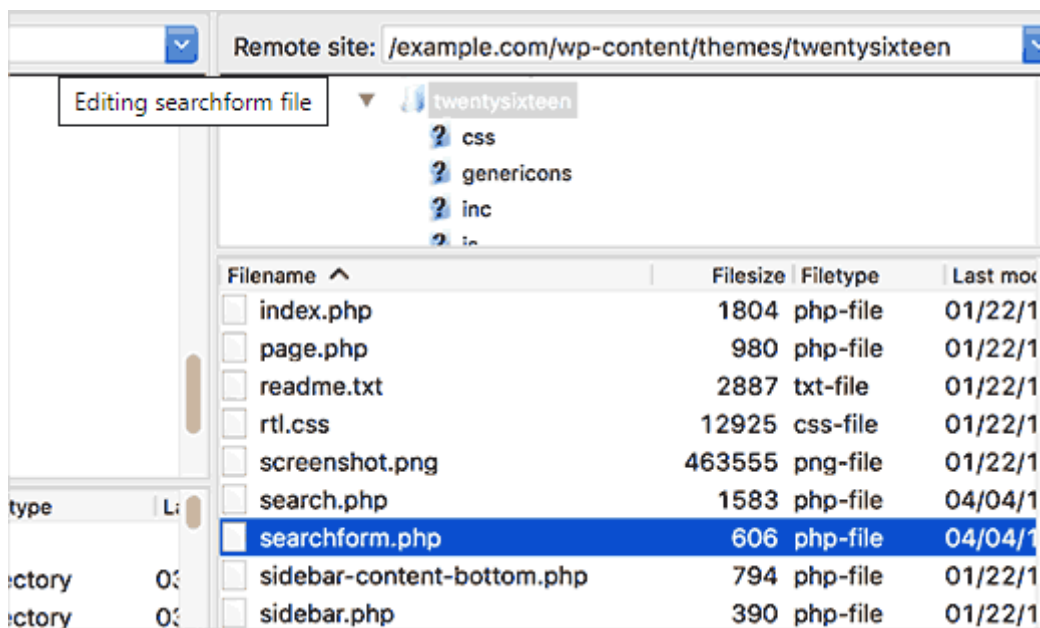
Control Panel



On the next screen, you will see some code in a textarea. You need to copy this code.

For this next step, you will need an [FTP client](#). If you need help, then see our guide on [how to use FTP to upload WordPress files](#).

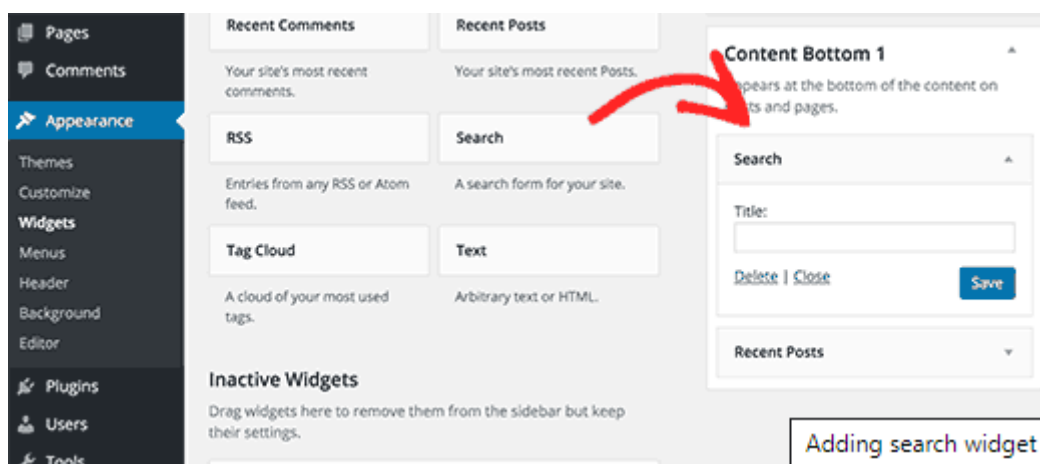
Connect to your website using FTP and then go to `/wp-content/themes/your-current-theme/` folder. Replace your current theme folder with the name of your current theme.



Locate the `searchform.php` file in your WordPress theme directory. Download this file to your computer and open it in a plain text editor like Notepad.

Delete all contents of the file and paste your Google custom search engine code. Save the file and then upload it back to your WordPress site using FTP.

After pasting Google custom search code, go to Appearance » Widgets to drag and drop the Search widget into your sidebar.



Click on the save button to store your widget settings.

You can now visit your website to see the Google search in action on your WordPress site.

Customizing Google Custom Search Engine Colors and Looks

Go to Google Custom Search website and edit your search engine. This will show settings for your custom search engine. Click on Look and Feel from sidebar.

Google custom search has some pre-made themes available to choose from. You can also click on customize tab and choose your own font, border, and background colors.

LayoutThemesCustomizeThumbnails

Customize the look and feel of your search engine. Click the save button to publish your changes. [Learn more](#)

General

Logo

Search box

Search button

Refinement

Result general

Result title

Font

Arial, sans-serif

Border color

#444444

Background color

#990000

Save

Save & Get Code

Reset

Google Custom Search

Q

Customize colors and appearance of Google custom search

Once you are done customizing the look of your search box, simply save your changes. You don't need to paste the code again, these changes will be automatically applied to your search form.

We hope this article helped you learn how to add Google search in a WordPress site. You may also want to see our list of [19+ free Google tools](#) every WordPress blogger should use.

If you liked this article, then please subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) for WordPress video tutorials. You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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