



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Comment Moderation](http://codex.wordpress.org/Comment_Moderation)

Version Date

6 August 2005

Comment Moderation

Comment moderation is a feature in WordPress that allows you to prevent comments from appearing on your site without your express approval. Moderation can be very useful in addressing [Comment Spam](#), but it has more general applications as well. If you would like to learn more about comment spam, see [Fighting Comment Spam](#).

How Moderation Works

WordPress runs a number of tests on each new comment before posting it to your blog. If a comment fails one of these tests, it is not displayed immediately on the site but is placed in a queue for **moderation**, the process of manual approval or deletion by the blog's administrator.

Controlling Moderation

You can control which comments get held for moderation on your [Discussion Options](#) page, which is located under [Options](#) → [Discussion](#).

If you would like every comment to be held for moderation, check the **An administrator must approve the comment (regardless of any matches below)** option, listed under **Before a comment appears**.

If you would like to send suspicious comments to the moderation queue, while letting innocent comments through, you will need to specify a set of rules for determining which comments are suspicious. These rules are specified in on the [Options](#) → [Discussion](#) > [Comment Moderation](#).

The first option is to hold comments for moderation if they contain an unusually large number of hyperlinks. Most normal comments contain at most one or two links while spam comments often have a large number. Look at your own comments and set this to a value that makes sense for your audience.

The second option is to specify a set of **moderation keys** which, if present in any part of the comment, will cause it to be held for moderation. These keys are specified one per line in the large text area, which is blank by default. Moderation keys can include [Spam Words](#), swear words, [IP addresses](#), and [Regular Expressions](#) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regular_expression).

When you add a new moderation key, it's a good idea to test its validity by checking previous comments. Simply use the link entitled **Check past comments against moderation list**, which is located underneath the text box containing moderation keys. This asks WordPress to check previous comments and tell you which ones would be flagged for moderation under your new set of keys.

The box marked **Comment blacklist** works in exactly the same way as the comment moderation box, except that comments that match these words will be **deleted immediately** and **without notification**. So be careful! Genuine comments could be deleted without you ever knowing they were there.