

## Re: HOW TO GET RID OF SEARCH BAR

**Source:**

[http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\\_admin/2004-04/2851.html](http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-04/2851.html)

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Secure your system and keep it protected/updated by following these tips:

You may have spyware/adware infesting your machine, follow the appropriate section for that, making sure you use at least THREE of the tools I list to scan and clean your machine AFTER updating them. Cleaning up spyware/adware/malware usually solves home page hijackers as well.

Please Notice that if you use AOL, you should at least upgrade to 9.0 or greater before doing any of the fixes. I know you can get AOL 9.0 at almost any convenience store, gas station, super market or other retail outlet in the world, so this should not be a problem.

Turn on that firewall...

<http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsXP/home/using/howto/homenet/icf.asp>

(It has been reported that it now works with AOL 9.0+)

Make sure you have all the updates (critical) installed from:

<http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/>

(Scan for updates, Review and Install)

Get rid of the spy/ad/mal-ware..

(Yes – using MORE than one of these..

I recommend at least the first three. Also..

UPDATE the definitions for them before using.)

Spybot Search and Destroy

<http://www.safer-networking.net/>

Lavasoft AdAware

<http://www.lavasoft.de>

CWSShredder

<http://www.spywareinfo.com/~merijn/downloads.html>

Hijack This!

<http://mjc1.com/mirror/hjt/>

microsoft.public.windowsxp.security\_admin: Re: HOW TO GET RID OF SEARCH BAR

I also like "The Cleaner" and "SpywareBlaster" and "SpywareGuard".

– <http://www.moosoft.com/>

– <http://www.javacoolsoftware.com/>

The first is a PAY product, but useable for 30 days – it has found and eliminated problems in the past the others did not. The latter two are prevention mechanisms. I like SpywareGuard for those with enough processor to have something running like antivirus software – and it prevents browser hijacking quite well. SpywareBlaster is a FANTASTIC free product, I suggest getting this after you cleanup and keeping it updated as well....

And Assortment of Others:

<http://spywareinfo.com/>