

Is this website using cookies?

You need to know about cookies because ... the use of them is regulated by data protection laws and regulations, including GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Large fines can be imposed for non-compliance.

What is a cookie?

Cookies are text files containing small amounts of information which are downloaded to your device when you visit a website. Cookies are then sent back to the originating website on each subsequent visit, or to another website that recognises that cookie. Cookies are useful because they allow a website to recognise a user's device. You can find more information about cookies at: www.allaboutcookies.org and www.aboutcookies.org. General advice for members of the public, as well as for operators of websites, can be found on the [website of the UK Information Commissioner's Office](#).

Cookies do lots of different jobs, like letting you navigate between pages efficiently, remembering your preferences, and generally improve the user experience. They can also help to ensure that adverts you see online are more relevant to you and your interests.

One method of finding whether a website is placing cookies on your device is to visit one of various free cookie search websites which you can easily find by typing the above question into Google or another search engine. An example is <https://www.cookieserve.com/>.

One drawback of using this 'easy' method is that many of these automatic searches only examine the home page of the website. Many websites (including our own) do not use cookies on the home page, but may well use one or more cookies on pages that contain forms or other ways of requiring some input from the website user. But if only the home page is examined for cookies, the search will reveal no cookies.

A second method of checking whether a website is using cookies is to use your web browser, such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari or Edge. The method varies, depending on which browser you are using. The 'Cookie Law Info' website provides a good, clear explanation of how to do this: <https://www.cookie-law.info/does-my-website-use-cookies/>. But remember that you should still need to check several pages of the website, especially any that contain contact forms or shopping baskets.

The '[Cookie Law Info](#)' website also includes a good, simple explanation of what cookies are, what the law requires, and other useful information, and you may well find it worth reading.

A third method of checking what cookies are being used by your own website – if we built it for you – is simply to ask us! We'll list the cookies in an email and send it to you. This is a free service just for websites that we have designed and built.



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