

5 antivirus extras worth paying for in 2026

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Microsoft Defender can be enough on Windows 11. Paid extras are optional jobs, not a ranking. Buying nothing is a valid outcome.

1. Cleanup + light VPN on an old PC - only after a hardware check. We map this job to TotalAV.
2. US identity monitoring - after a free credit freeze and IdentityTheft.gov. We map this job to Norton (LifeLock-style).
3. A lab-oriented suite for a few devices - verify today's AV-TEST Windows chart yourself. We map this job to Bitdefender Individual.
4. One license for a family's devices - count phones and PCs; confirm the device limit. We map this job to McAfee.
5. A home or public Wi-Fi inspector - after the router is locked. We map this job to Avast.

Commissions may affect placement. They do not change the jobs.

A shop leftover you did not ask for can be uninstalled; you can still buy a job later.

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