

# YOUR HOME ROUTER

## TP-Link HomeShield, step by step

This sets up parental controls on your TP-Link Deco router with HomeShield, the one device that protects every phone, tablet, and computer on your home WiFi at the same time. It assumes your Deco is already installed. About 15 minutes.

### BEFORE YOU START

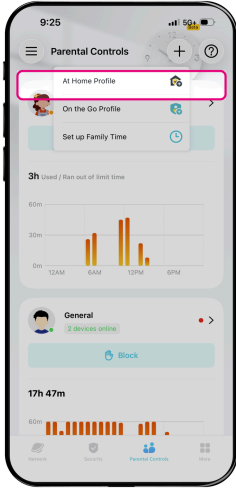
Open the TP-Link Deco app, tap Parental Controls, and after you create a profile, assign your child's devices to it, or the controls will not reach them. One Apple note first: on each iPhone or iPad, open Settings, then Wi-Fi, tap the *i* beside your new network, and turn Private Wi-Fi Address off. iPhones change that address by default, and every change looks like a new device, which drops it out of its profile. Once per device and the profile sticks. In each picture, the pink box shows exactly where to tap. Watch for the Save steps: changes are only applied once you tap Save.

### BEFORE YOU BUY

If you do not have a Deco yet: the TP-Link Deco X55 two-pack (about \$180 to \$200, and Costco Canada has a 90-day return) covers most homes. HomeShield parental controls are about \$25 a year after the first year.

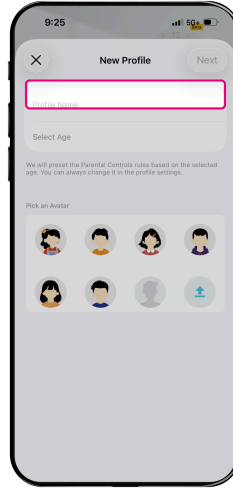
**Layer 3 of the Castle Model, the router that protects every device at once.**

## SET UP A PROFILE



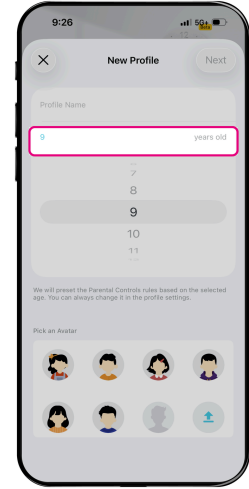
### STEP 1

In Parental Controls, tap the plus sign, then tap At Home Profile.



### STEP 2

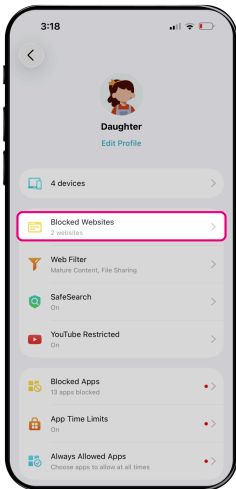
Type a name for the profile and pick an avatar, then tap Next.



### STEP 3

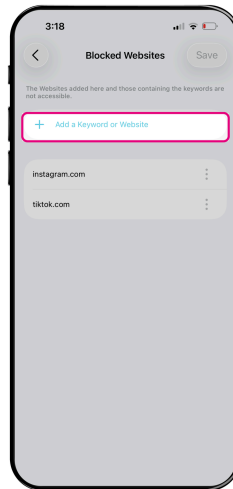
Set your child's age. HomeShield presets safe rules to match it, then tap Next. After this, assign your child's devices to the profile.

## BLOCK WEBSITES



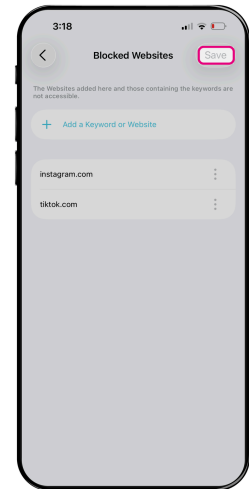
### STEP 4

Tap your new profile to open it, then tap Blocked Websites.



### STEP 5

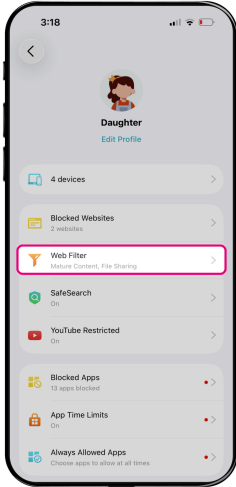
Tap Add a Keyword or Website, type a site like youtube.com, and add it. Instagram and TikTok are common ones.



### SAVE

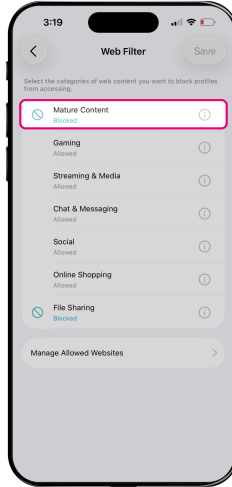
Important: tap Save in the top right, or your blocked sites are not applied.

## FILTER BY CATEGORY



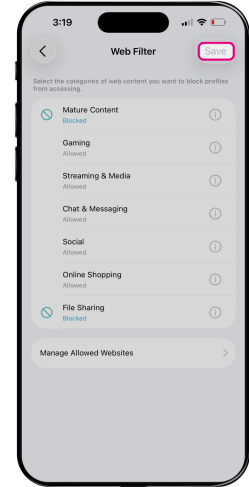
**STEP 7**

Back on the profile, tap Web Filter.



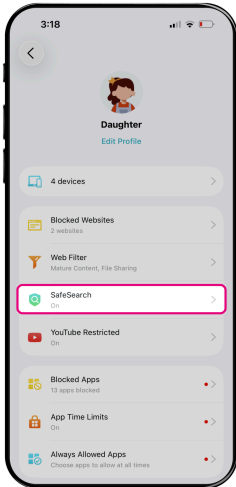
**STEP 8**

Tap a category to block it. Mature Content, File Sharing, and Social are good starts.



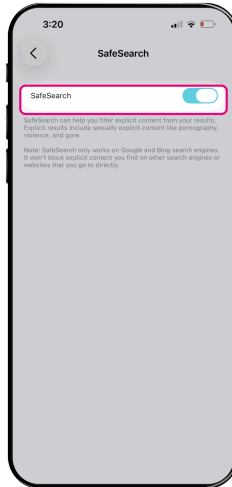
**SAVE**

Important: tap Save in the top right to apply the categories you blocked.



**STEP 10**

Tap SafeSearch. The YouTube Restricted setting is right below it.



**STEP 11**

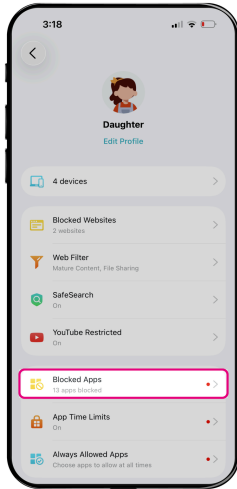
Turn SafeSearch on. It hides explicit results in Google and Bing. Toggles save on their own.



**STEP 12**

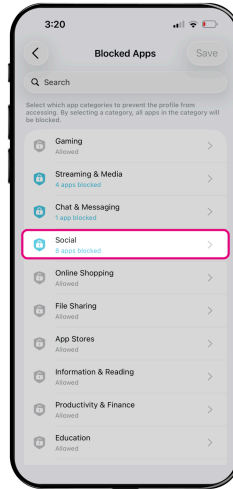
Turn on YouTube Restricted Mode to filter out mature videos.

## BLOCK APPS



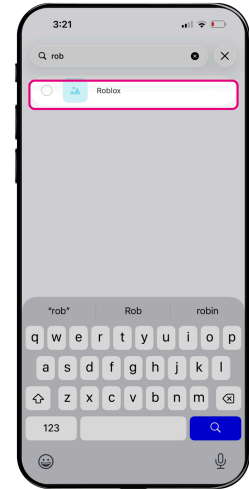
### STEP 13

Back on the profile, tap Blocked Apps.



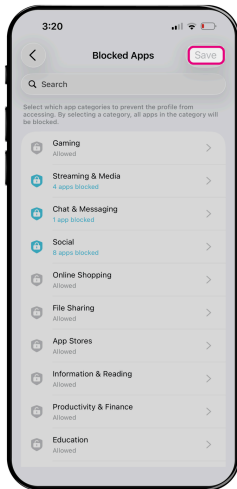
### STEP 14

Tap a category to block its apps, like Social, Streaming & Media, or Chat & Messaging.



### STEP 15

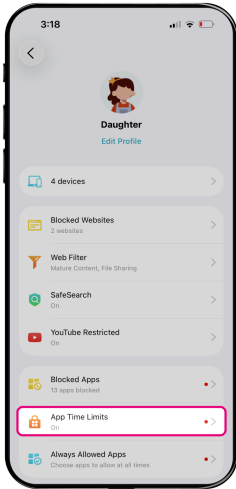
Or search by name. Type an app like Roblox, Snapchat, or Discord and tap to block it.



### SAVE

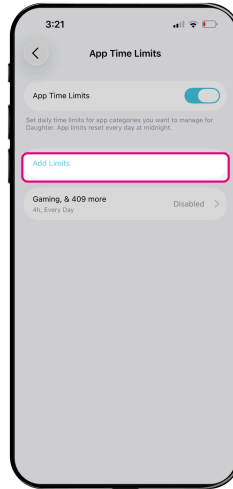
Important: tap Save in the top right, or your blocked apps are not applied.

## SET TIME LIMITS



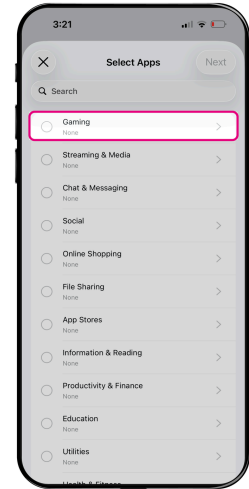
**STEP 17**

Back on the profile, tap App Time Limits.



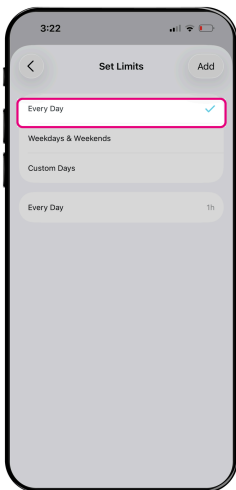
**STEP 18**

Turn on App Time Limits, then tap Add Limits.



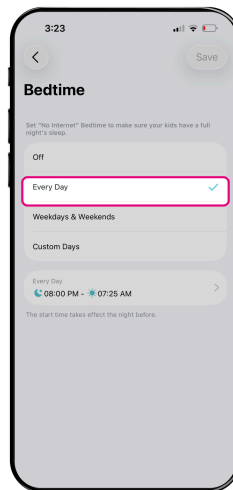
**STEP 19**

Choose which app categories the limit covers, then tap Next.



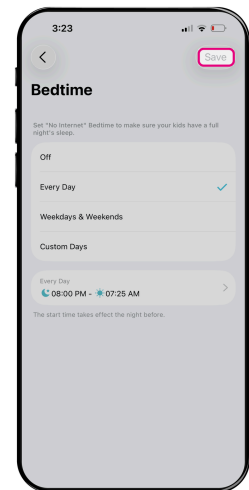
**STEP 20**

Pick the days, then set how long per day, for example 1 hour. Tap Add.



**STEP 21**

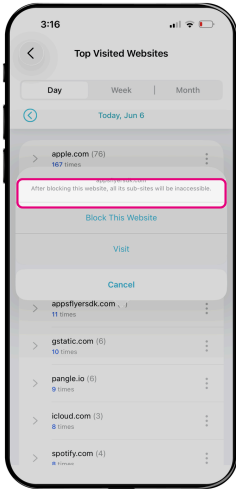
Open Bedtime, choose Every Day, and set overnight hours like 8:00 PM to 7:00 AM.



**SAVE**

Important: tap Save in the top right to lock in the bedtime schedule.

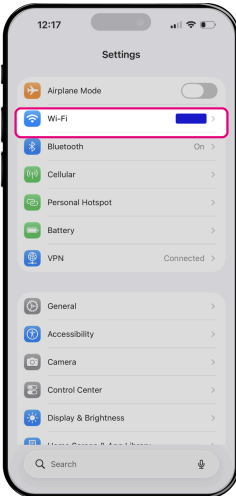
## KEEP AN EYE ON IT



### STEP 23

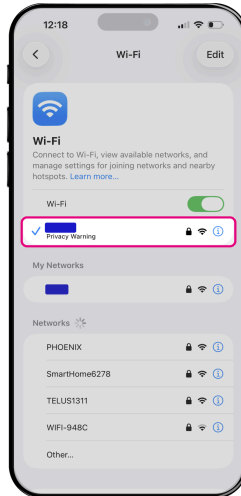
Anytime, open Top Visited Websites to see where they go. Tap any site and choose Block This Website.

## ONE THING ON EVERY APPLE DEVICE



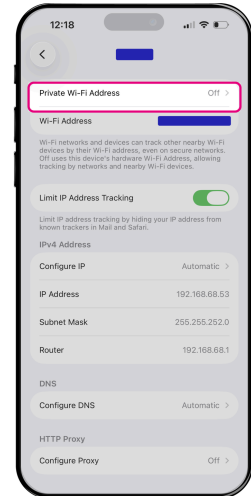
### STEP 24

On your child's iPhone or iPad, open Settings and tap Wi-Fi.



### STEP 25

Tap the small i beside your home network's name.

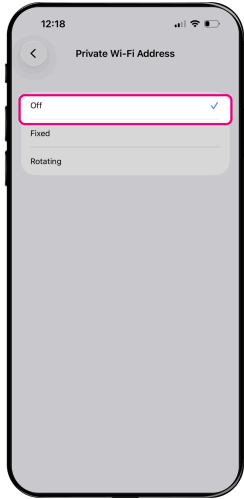


### STEP 26

Tap Private Wi-Fi Address.

## ONE THING ON EVERY APPLE DEVICE (CONTINUED)

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### STEP 27

Choose Off. Repeat once on every Apple device in the house.

That is the router layer done. Every device on your home WiFi is now filtered, time-limited, and paused overnight, all from one place.

## WHAT THIS CATCHES, AND WHAT IT DOES NOT

The router protects every device on your home WiFi at once, harmful sites, blocked apps, time limits, and bedtimes, even a visiting friend's tablet. It cannot see a phone using cellular data: the moment a device leaves your WiFi, the router stops seeing it. That is the one honest gap. Pair this with the device controls (Apple Screen Time or Google Family Link) and a real conversation with your kids.

## CHECK IT WORKED

On any device on your home WiFi, visit [HomeNetworkCheckup.com](https://HomeNetworkCheckup.com). Your score should jump from around 30% to 70 or 80%. That confirms the baseline filtering is live. It does not measure social media or gaming, those are the apps and limits you set in the steps above.

## KEEP GOING

This is one of five layers. Add the device controls on each phone (Apple Screen Time or Google Family Link), switch on the free CIRA Canadian Shield DNS filter, and put the Safe Family Internet decal in your window so other families know they are not doing this alone.