

Our themes look great and work great out of the box, but we understand that sometimes you might need to customize your theme beyond what is possible via the Theme Options. These guidelines will teach you the basics of how to go about customizing your theme.

Important: We do not provide support for theme customization. This guide is for information only. Any customization is outside the scope of our support policy.

Always Make a Backup

Before you start customizing your theme, you should always make sure you have a backup of your site in case anything goes wrong. If you haven't already, I would recommend backup your theme.

Customizing via a Child Theme

We strongly advise you **NOT** to edit any of the original files in the theme, as these changes will be overwritten when you update the theme.

Instead you should use a child theme, copy the files you need to change from the parent theme into the child theme and edit them there. In this way, you can continue to update your parent theme, and your customizations will be preserved in your child theme.

Learn more about "Setting Up The Child Theme" in the Package.

style.css

Your child theme's style.css file is where you can add CSS to change the appearance of your theme.

functions.php

More advanced customization can be done via your child theme's **functions.php** file.

Here you can add your own custom PHP functions, edit any of our pluggable functions, or hook into a theme's action and filter hooks.

Important: You should never edit your functions.php file via Appearance » Editor in your WordPress dashboard, because if you make an error, you could lose access to your site completely.

Instead, you should always edit it locally in a text editor, and then upload it to your site again via FTP. This way if something goes wrong you can easily undo the changes you've made and restore the original file.

Updating your Parent Theme

If you're using a child theme, whenever you update your parent theme, you should check the changelog for the theme to see whether any of the files you have customized in your child theme have been changed in the parent theme. If they haven't then you can simply update by overwriting the files in the parent theme.

If they have been changed, you should copy the updated file into your child theme, and re-apply your customization to the new file.