

Changes Not Applying

What This Means

This issue occurs when changes made through Steel Security do not appear to take effect on your site.

You may apply a hardening control, but the expected behavior does not change.

Common Symptoms

- protections appear enabled but have no effect
 - restricted files or endpoints remain accessible
 - headers do not appear after being applied
 - previously visible behavior remains unchanged
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Possible Causes

This issue is often caused by:

- caching (browser, server, or CDN)
 - delayed server configuration updates
 - conflicting rules or settings
 - unsupported server environment
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How to Fix It

Try the following steps:

1. Clear All Caches

- clear your browser cache
 - clear any WordPress caching plugins
 - purge CDN caches (if applicable)
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2. Reload the Page Fully

- perform a hard refresh (e.g., Ctrl+F5 or Cmd+Shift+R)
 - test in a private/incognito window
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3. Check Server Environment

- confirm your server supports the applied control
 - ensure configuration changes are allowed
 - verify `.htaccess` or server rules are being read
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4. Review Conflicting Configurations

- check for overlapping rules from other plugins
 - review manual server configurations
 - ensure no settings override Steel Security changes
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5. Allow Time for Changes

- some environments may delay configuration updates
 - wait briefly and test again
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What to Expect After Fixing

After resolving the issue:

- applied protections should take effect immediately
 - restricted access should behave as expected
 - headers or rules should appear correctly
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When to Seek Help

If the issue persists:

- document the specific control applied
 - note your server type (Apache, Nginx, IIS)
 - check logs or error messages
 - contact support with details
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Related

- [Apache \(.htaccess\) Hardening](#)
 - [Nginx Hardening](#)
 - [IIS \(web.config\) Hardening](#)
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Revision #1

Created 2026-04-04 18:52:35 UTC by Jason Wassing

Updated 2026-04-04 18:52:35 UTC by Jason Wassing