

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN UPDATING DIVI SITES

1.

Back up, backup, BACK-UP!

I don't know how that's really supposed to be spelled but you get the point. When it comes to updating this is probably the most important step. If something bad happens all can be fixed if you have a backup.

- **Backup regularly** - What regularly means will be different for everyone, but just make sure the frequency is maybe weekly or monthly. If you are a blogger and publish posts often backing up daily may be a better choice.
- **Backup to more than one spot** - If your host saves backups for you that's great, but that isn't enough. You should have at least two places you are backing up to, i.e. Dropbox, Google Drive, your local drive.
- **Keep multiple copies** - Wherever you backup to and how you backup you will most likely have an option of how many backups to keep. Do not keep just one or two, if you happen to get hacked and don't realize right away most recent copies of your backup could be compromised. Keep at least two or three months' worth if possible.
- **Know how to restore** - Whatever backup system you are using it's not really useful if you don't know how to restore a backup right? Make sure you take the time to practice restoring a full or partial backup (just the theme or just the plugins).

2.

Update on a Staging Site

Most hosts include staging sites with a push-to-live function, but even if yours doesn't you can still set up a separate install on your server for testing purposes.



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3.

Remote Updating

If you are maintaining just your own site or only a handful you may not need to use remote updating, but if you are handling many these tools are incredibly useful for being time-efficient:

- **MainWP** - <https://mainwp.com/>
- **iThemes Sync** - <https://ithemes.com/sync/>
- **InfiniteWP** - <https://infinetwp.com/>
- **WPRemote** - <https://wpremove.com/>

Note that some offer free and/or premium options

4.

Some General Guidelines

Just a couple good rules-of-thumb you may find helpful:

- If doing updates on a live site (this isn't the best idea by the way unless you have a one-click restore system in place) **perform them when you will be getting the least amount of traffic on your site.** You may want to check your Google Analytics to get this info.
- **Don't perform updates when you're about to head out.** It never fails this is when something might happen and you'll be super frustrated.
- **Check the changelogs** whenever possible to see if the update is simply for new features/enhancements or whether it is a critical security update.
- **If it isn't a security update maybe WAIT to update.** If your site is completed do you really need the new feature coming out in Divi? If the updates are for the Visual Builder do you even use the Visual Builder? Just don't be afraid to be cautious when updating is all we're suggesting.
- **Use a child theme on your site** whenever possible so any changes you may have done to any PHP files will not get overwritten.



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