Want to prevent tracking cookies from being saved on your PC? Many times when a user runs clean up programs like Ad-aware or SpyBot Search and Destroy, those programs come up with a laundry list of items that are usually cookies that track your Web surfing habits. While these tracking cookies probably won’t harm your PC, they are an invasion of your privacy. Here’s how you can prevent them from being loaded onto your PC.

1. From Internet Explorer click on Tools > Internet Options (Figure 1).

2. Click on “Privacy” tab (Figure 2).

3. Click on the “Advanced” button (Figure 3).
4. Select settings:
   1. Select “Override Automatic Cookie Handling.”
   2. In the Cookies section, set “First-party Cookies” to Accept.
   3. Set “Third-party Cookies” to Prompt.
   4. Put a check in box next to “Always allow session cookies.”
   5. Click OK button.

5. Click OK button again to close the window.

   ![Advanced Browsing Settings](image)

   **Figure 4**

Now whenever you browse to a site that tries to set a third-party cookie (like a tracking cookie), you will be prompted to allow it or block it. You can also select to always block third-party cookies from that particular site so you won’t be constantly asked.

IF you accidentally choose to always block a site, you can modify or change your choice by opening that same section in Internet Explorer but click on the “Sites” button instead of the “Advanced” button. All of the sites you have blocked or allowed will be listed there. Make any changes necessary.

Since I started doing this I have not received a single tracking cookie on my PC. When I run “Ad-aware,” it finds “No objects.” When I run “SpyBot Search and Destroy,” it completes saying “OK, nothing found!”