
FROM THE MEHRUTHERM BLOG · WEBSITES

Why WordPress Is the Wrong Choice for Most Small Business Websites

WordPress became the default way to build a website. For most small businesses, that default quietly costs you in speed, security, and upkeep. Here is why.

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WordPress runs a huge share of the websites on the internet. It got there for good reasons: it was free, it arrived early, and for a long time it was the easiest way to get a site online.

But popular and right are not the same thing.

For most small businesses in 2026, a few pages that rarely change, WordPress is far more machine than the job needs. And that extra machinery is not free. You pay for it in speed, in security, and in the steady drip of maintenance that never quite stops.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- WordPress was built to **assemble each page on the fly** from many moving parts. That flexibility is also its weakness.
- The more pieces a site is made of, the **more there is to update, and the more that can break**.
- All those pieces make WordPress **one of the most common targets** for attacks online.
- For most small business sites, a **simpler, purpose-built site** is faster, safer, and far less work to own.

WordPress Was Built for a Different Job

Here is the part most owners never see. Every time someone visits a typical WordPress site, the site does not hand over a finished page. It builds one, right then, by running software, pulling content out of a database, and stitching in whatever add-ons you have installed.

That design makes sense for a large publisher posting dozens of articles a day. It is overkill for a business with a homepage, a services page, and a way to get in touch.

You inherited a heavy, complicated engine to do a light job. And you are the one who has to keep it running.

The Maintenance Never Really Stops

A WordPress site is rarely one thing. It is a core program, a theme that controls the look, and a stack of add-ons for the features you wanted along the way. Each of those is built by different people, on different schedules, and each needs updating.

When they all get along, fine. When an update to one breaks another, your site goes sideways, often without warning, and usually right when you do not have time for it. The more you added to make WordPress do what you wanted, the more fragile the whole thing becomes.

THE TREADMILL, IN ONE SENTENCE

Every add-on you install to fix a shortcoming becomes one more thing that has to be watched, updated, and kept from breaking the others. The flexibility that sold you on WordPress is the same flexibility that keeps you, or someone you pay, on the maintenance treadmill.

Every Extra Piece Is Another Way In

Security follows the same logic. Each add-on is software written by someone else, and any one of them can carry a weakness. Multiply that across a stack of add-ons that are not always kept current, and you have a lot of doors to a building you were not planning to guard.

This is not a hunch. Sites built on WordPress are among the most common targets online, precisely because there are so many of them and so many of those moving parts go un-updated. A small business is not too small to be hit. Attacks are automated; they go after whatever is reachable and unpatched.

We walk through the basics every small business should have in [cybersecurity basics for small businesses](#), and what happens when access slips away from you in [locked out of your own website](#).

Slower Sites Are Harder to Find

Because a WordPress page is assembled on every visit, it tends to be slower to load, and speed is not a vanity number. People leave slow sites, and search engines quietly rank them lower. So the same machinery that makes the site heavy to maintain can also make it harder for customers to find you in the first place.

If getting found matters to you, and for most local businesses it is everything, that is a steep price to pay for a setup you did not really need. More on that in [getting found on Google](#).

The "Free" That Adds Up

WordPress itself is free. The website rarely is.

By the time it actually works the way you wanted, there is hosting that can handle it, a premium theme, several paid add-ons with their own yearly renewals, and either your time or a contractor's spent keeping it all patched and alive. None of that is hidden, exactly. It just arrives one reasonable-looking line at a time, until the "free" website has a running cost you never signed up for.

When WordPress Is Genuinely the Right Call

To be fair, WordPress is not wrong for everyone. If you publish constantly, run a large content operation, or need a sprawling site with many editors and complex moving parts, its flexibility earns its keep. There are businesses for which it is a sensible choice, and we will tell you honestly if yours is one of them.

But that is not most small businesses. Most need a handful of clear, fast pages that make them look credible and make it easy to get in touch. For that, the heavy machinery is all cost and no benefit.

A Better Default for Most Small Businesses

So what should most small business sites be instead? Something built for exactly what you need, and nothing you do not.

A typical WordPress site

- × Rebuilds every page on the fly from many moving parts
- × A steady stream of updates, and things that break when they conflict
- × A wide attack surface that needs constant guarding
- × Slower to load, which can cost you in search and in patience
- × A running cost in add-ons, hosting, and upkeep

A site built just for you

- ✓ Delivered ready to go, so it loads fast for every visitor
- ✓ Nothing to patch every week, so it stays put once it is right
- ✓ Far fewer ways in, which means far less to worry about
- ✓ Fast pages that help customers find you, not hold you back
- ✓ Lower upkeep, and the keys handed to you, not held over you

You still get a site you can update. You just lose the parts that exist to serve the software instead of you. We have rebuilt sites exactly like this, taking something slow and fragile and turning it into something fast, secure, and genuinely low-maintenance.

ASK ONE QUESTION BEFORE YOU BUILD

Before you accept WordPress as the default, ask the person building your site a simple question: who keeps this running, and what happens when a piece breaks? If the honest answer is "you, or you pay us every month," that is the treadmill talking. A good site should mostly just work, and stay yours.

What This Means for You

If you already have a WordPress site that works and you are happy with it, there is no need to panic or rip anything out. But if it feels slow, fussy, or like something is always needing attention, that is not you doing it wrong. That is the tool being a poor fit for the job.

And if you are starting fresh, you do not have to inherit any of it. You can have a site that is fast, safe, and easy to live with from day one. (Not sure you even need a site yet? Start with [does your small business need a website.](#))

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Wondering if WordPress is the wrong fit for you? Get in touch and we will give you an honest read, whether your current site is worth keeping, fixing, or rebuilding into something far easier to own.

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