# How to Choose the Right Frontend Dark Mode for Your Website

WP Dark Mode · https://wppool.dev/docs/how-to-choose-the-right-frontend-dark-mode-for-your-website/

The **Frontend Dark Mode** settings allow you to control how dark mode is applied to your website and visitors. WP Dark Mode provides five different modes, each designed for a different use case.

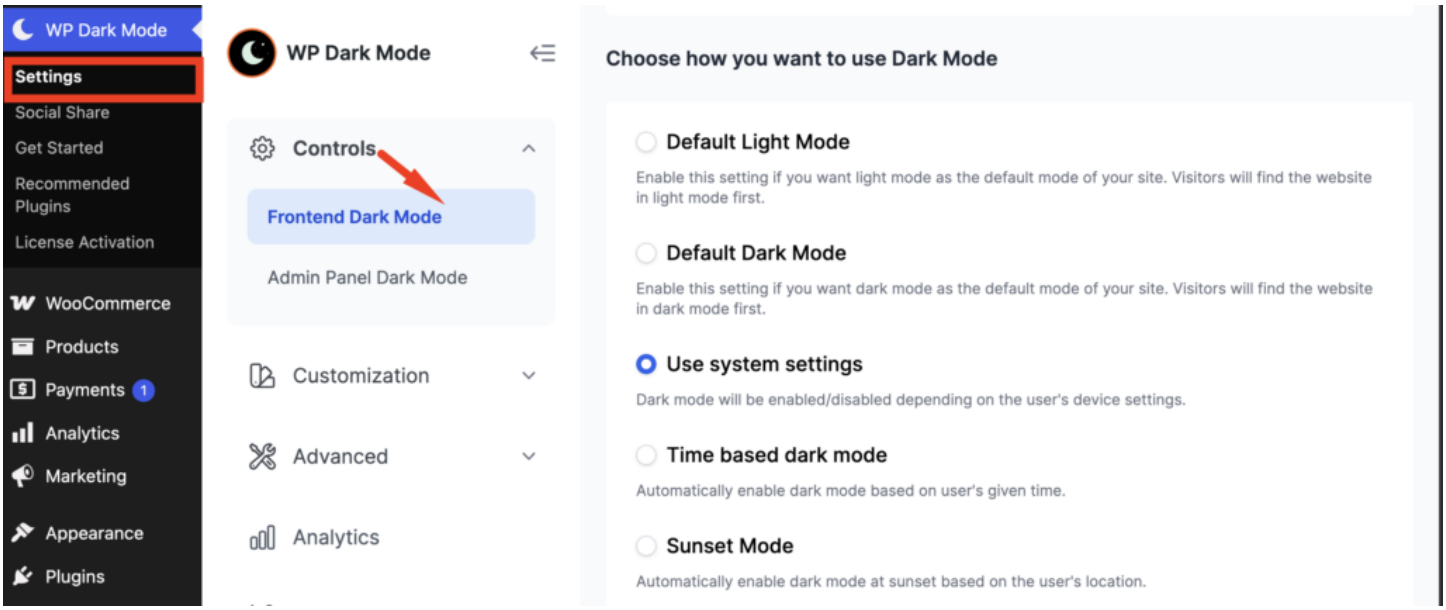
## Accessing the Frontend Dark Mode Settings

To configure the Frontend Dark Mode behavior:

**WP Dark Mode → Settings → Controls → Frontend Dark Mode →Enable Frontend Dark Mode**

From this page, you can choose one of the following dark mode options:

- Default Light Mode
- Default Dark Mode
- Use System Settings
- Time-Based Dark Mode
- Sunset Mode



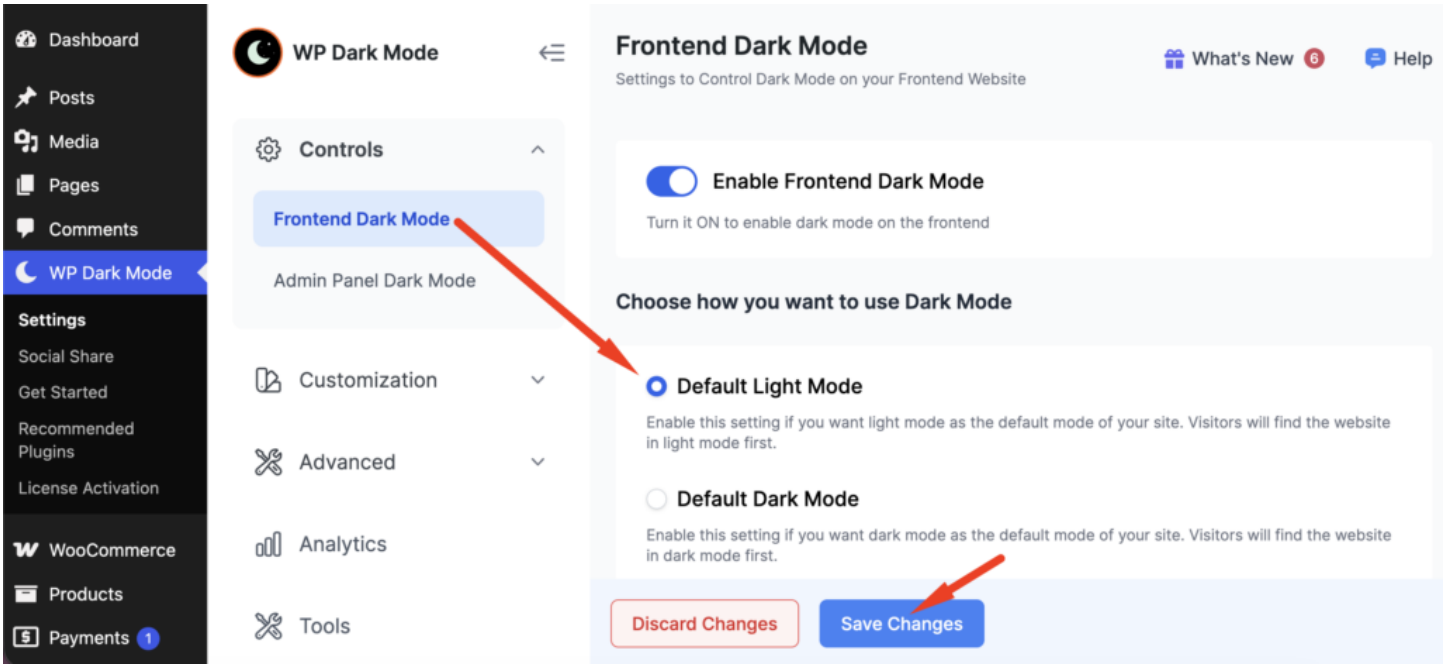

# 1. Default Light Mode

## How it works

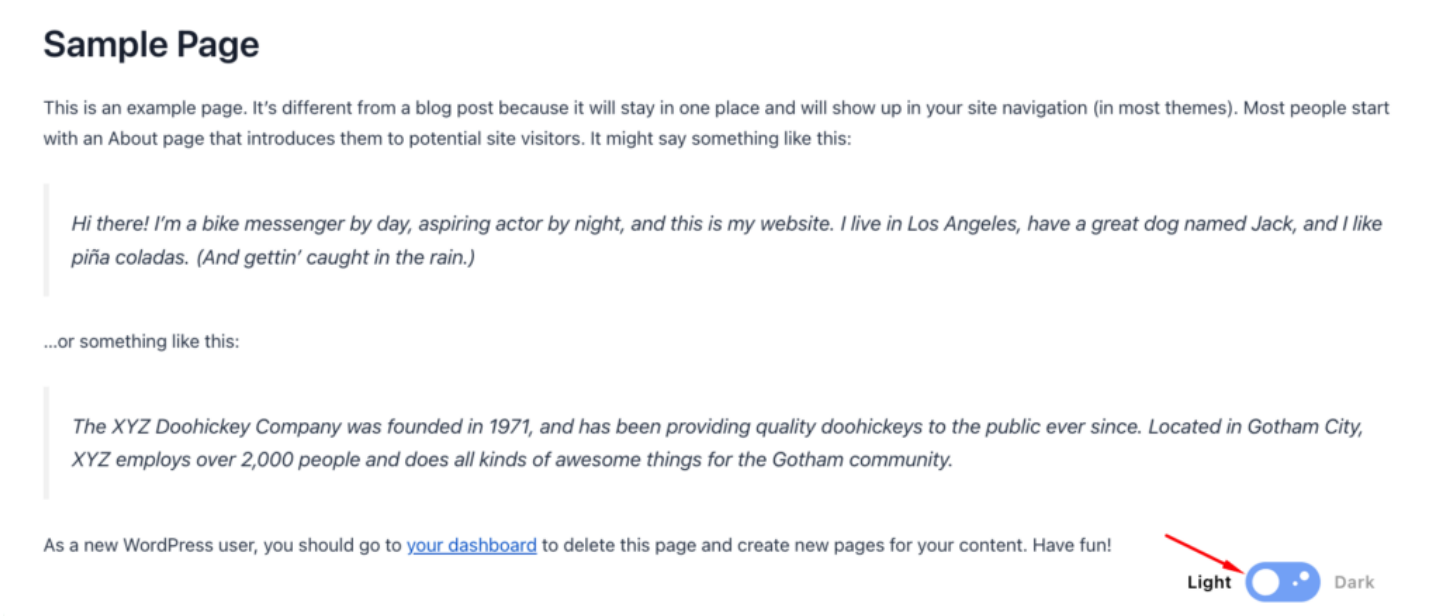
This is the default behavior of your website.

- Visitors initially see your website in **Light Mode**.
- If the **Floating Switch** is enabled, visitors can manually switch to Dark Mode.
- Their selected preference is remembered for future visits.

Plugin Settings




User View




**Best for**: Websites that primarily use a light theme but want to offer visitors an optional Dark Mode.

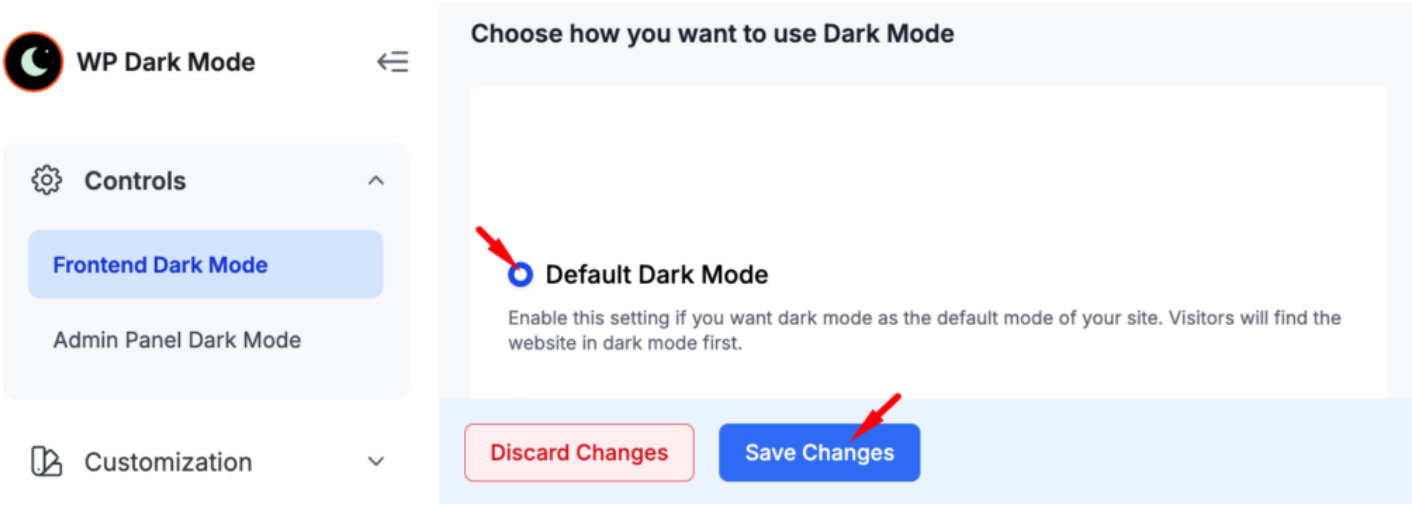
## 2. Default Dark Mode

### How it works

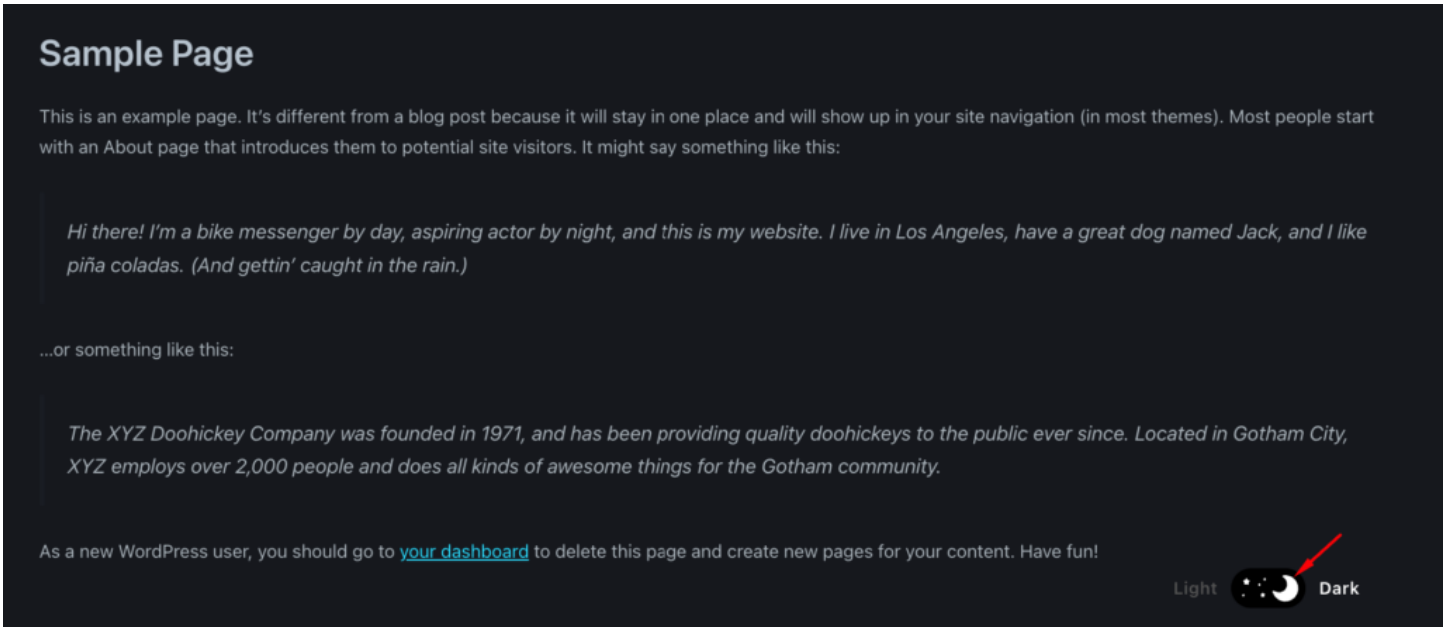
Your website loads in **Dark Mode** by default.

- Every visitor initially sees the site in Dark Mode.
- If the Floating Switch is enabled, visitors can switch back to Light Mode.
- Their preference is saved for future visits.

Plugin Settings




User View




**Best for**: Websites that are designed primarily for a dark appearance.

# 3. Use System Settings

## How it works

WP Dark Mode automatically follows the visitor's operating system or browser appearance preference.

For example:

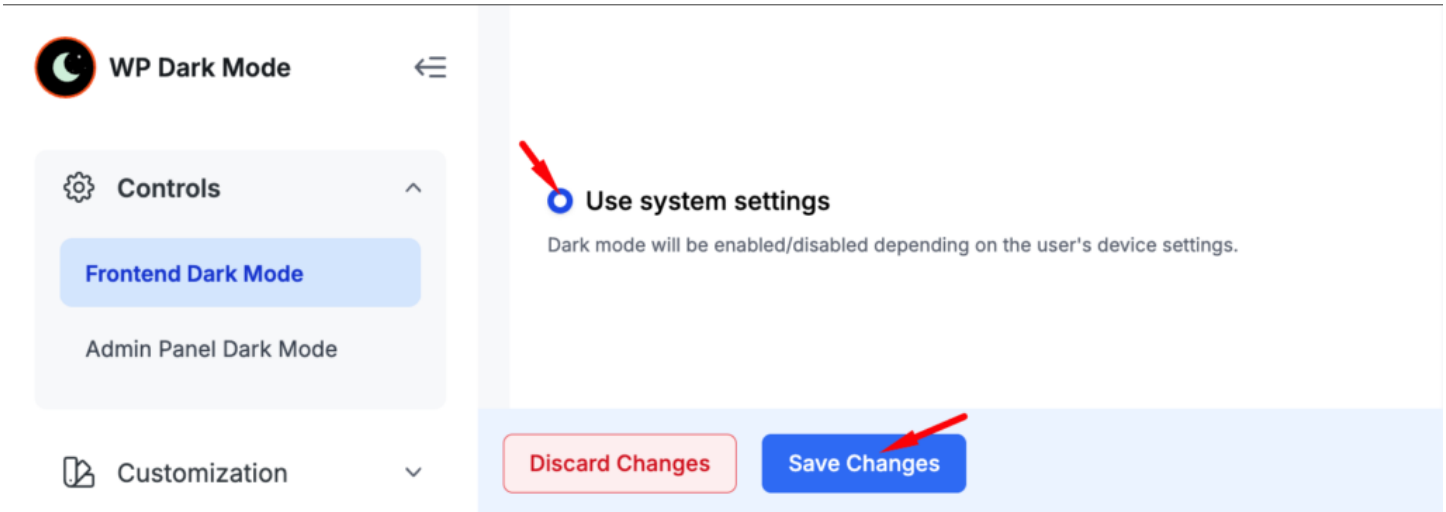
- If the visitor's device is set to **Dark Mode**, your website loads in Dark Mode.
- If their device is set to **Light Mode**, your website loads in Light Mode.

This provides a seamless experience that matches the visitor's device settings.

**Recommended Configuration:** Disable the **Display Floating Switch**.

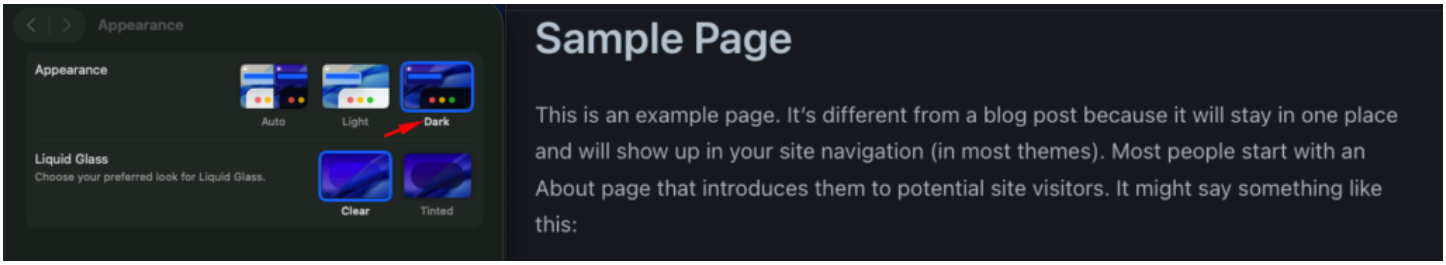
If visitors manually toggle the switch, their saved preference overrides the system setting, preventing the website from automatically following the device theme.

Plugin Settings




User View






**Best for**: Websites that automatically respect users' device preferences.

# 4. Time-Based Dark Mode

## How it works

Dark Mode is automatically enabled during a specified time range.

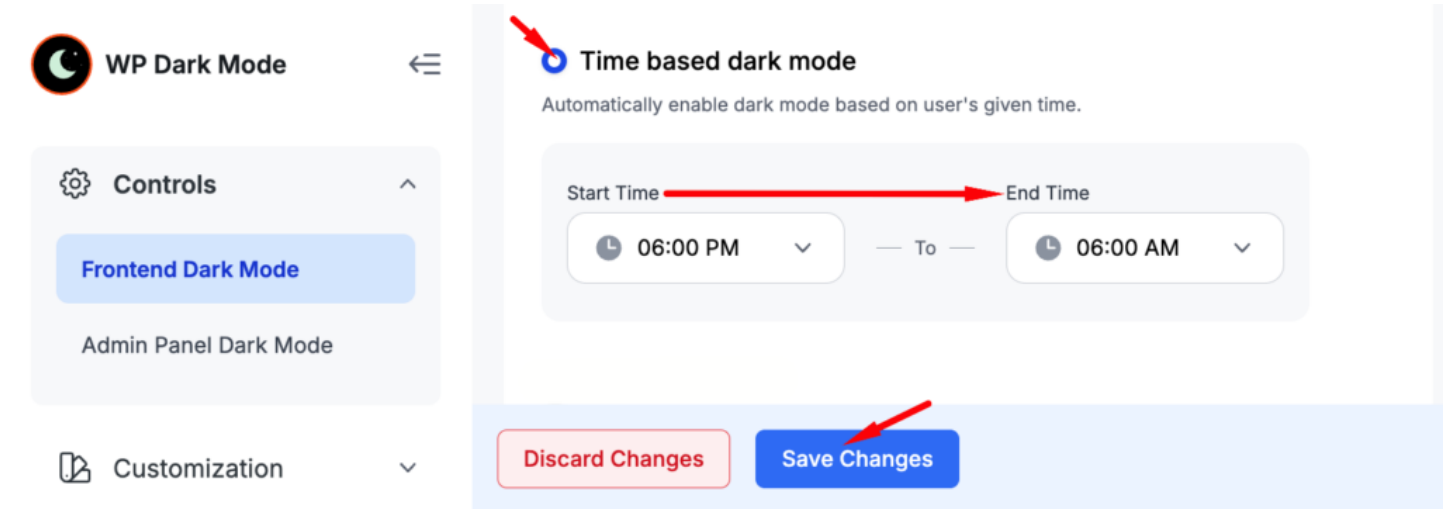
You can configure:

- **Start Time**
- **End Time**

Example:

- Start: **6:00 PM**
- End: **6:00 AM**

During this period, visitors will see Dark Mode. Outside of this period, the website switches back to Light Mode.




**Recommended Configuration:** Disable the **Display Floating Switch**.

If a visitor manually changes the theme using the floating switch, their saved preference takes priority over the scheduled time, preventing automatic switching.

**Prefer a visual guide? Watch our quick tutorial to get started.**

Embedded media: https://www.youtube.com/embed/a_UNCBJ8xTM?feature=oembed

**Best for**: Websites that want Dark Mode only during evening or nighttime hours.

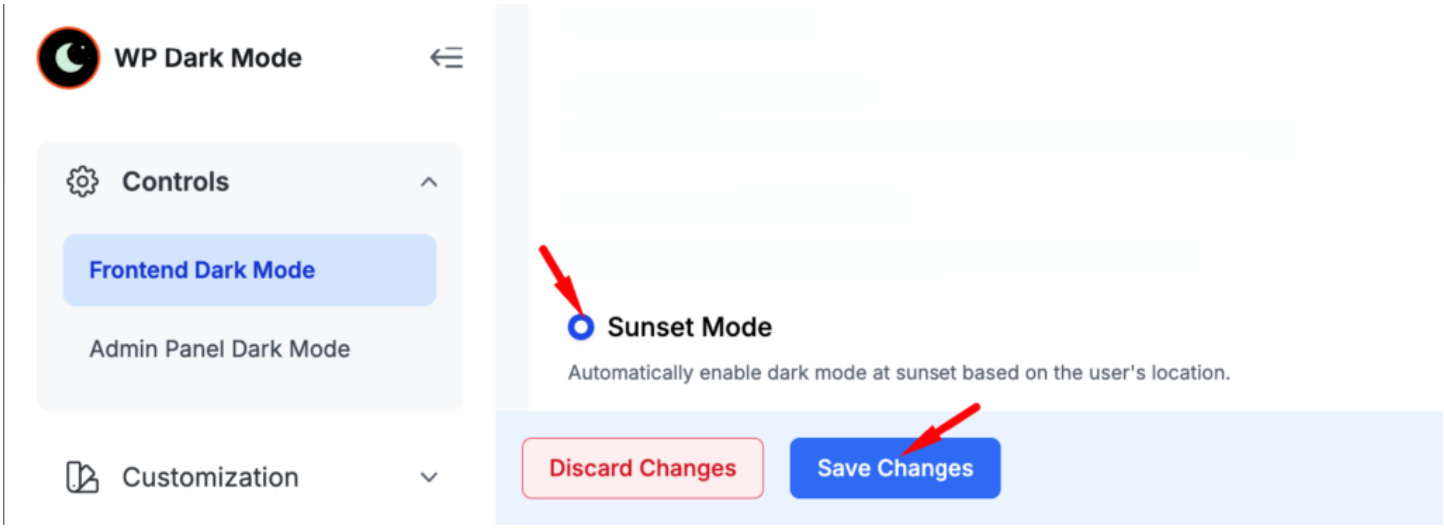
# 5. Sunset Mode

## How it works

Dark Mode is automatically enabled at **sunset** and disabled at **sunrise** based on the visitor's geographical location.

Instead of setting manual times, WP Dark Mode calculates sunrise and sunset automatically.

This creates a more natural day/night experience for visitors in different regions.




**Recommended Configuration:** Disable the **Display Floating Switch**.

If visitors manually change the theme using the floating switch, the saved preference overrides the automatic sunset/sunrise behavior.

**Best for**: Websites that want Dark Mode to change naturally based on local daylight hours.

## Mode Comparison

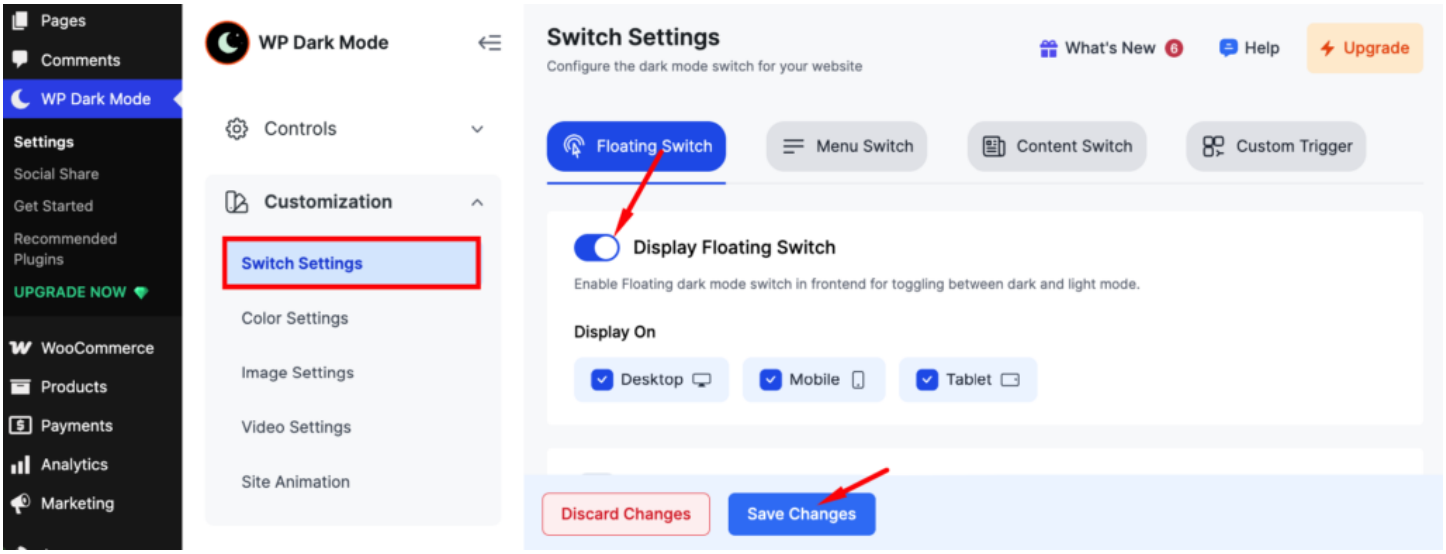
| Mode | How it Works | Manual Time Required | Follows Device Settings | Recommended to Disable Floating Switch |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Default Light Mode | Website loads in Light Mode by default | No | No | Optional |
| Default Dark Mode | Website loads in Dark Mode by default | No | No | Optional |
| Use System Settings | Matches the visitor's device theme | No | Yes | Yes |
| Time-Based Dark Mode | Enables Dark Mode during a scheduled time range | Yes | No | Yes |
| Sunset Mode | Automatically switches between Light and Dark based on local sunrise/sunset | No | No | Yes |

## Important Note

### Disabling the Display Floating Switch (Recommended for Automatic Modes)

If you are using Use System Settings, Time-Based Dark Mode, or Sunset Mode, it is recommended to disable the Display Floating Switch.

**Navigation**: WP Dark Mode → Settings → Customization → Switch Settings → Display Floating Switch




Turn the **Display Floating Switch off**, then click **Save Changes**.

### Why is this recommended?

The floating switch allows visitors to manually switch between Light and Dark Mode. Once a visitor uses the switch, WP Dark Mode saves their preference in the browser. This saved preference takes priority over the automatic dark mode settings.

As a result:

- **Using System Settings** will no longer follow the visitor's device theme.
- **Time-based dark mode** will no longer switch according to the configured schedule.
- **Sunset Mode** will no longer automatically switch based on the visitor's local sunrise and sunset times.

For the most reliable automatic behavior, disable the **Display Floating Switch** when using any of these three modes.

## Best Practice

Choose **only one automatic mode** (Use System Settings, Time-Based Dark Mode, or Sunset Mode) if you want dark mode behavior to be fully automated.

For the most consistent experience, **disable the Display Floating Switch**. This prevents visitors' manual selections from overriding the automatic behavior and ensures the chosen mode works as

intended.

That's a better approach for end-user documentation. Instead of only mentioning the website type, explain **why someone would choose that mode** and **what benefit it provides**.

## Common Use Cases

### 1. Default Light Mode

#### Use Cases

- **Business or corporate websites** – Keep the familiar light appearance while allowing visitors to switch to Dark Mode if they prefer.
- **Blogs and documentation sites** – Provide a bright, easy-to-read experience during the day without forcing Dark Mode on all users.

**Benefit:** Best when Light Mode is your primary design but you still want to offer Dark Mode as an optional feature.

### 2. Default Dark Mode

#### Use Cases

- **Gaming or technology websites** – Creates a modern, immersive experience that aligns with the site's branding.
- **Creative portfolios or entertainment sites** – Make visual content stand out and provide a premium dark-first appearance.

**Benefit:** Ideal when your website is designed to be viewed in Dark Mode by default.

### 3. Use System Settings

#### Use Cases

- **SaaS applications or user dashboards** – Automatically match each visitor's operating system theme, creating a seamless experience.
- **Accessibility-focused websites** – Respect the user's device preference without requiring manual switching.

**Benefit:** Visitors always see the website in the same theme as the rest of their device, improving comfort and consistency.

## 4. Time-Based Dark Mode

### Use Cases

- **News, blogs, or educational websites** – Automatically enables Dark Mode during evening hours, making content more comfortable to read in low-light environments.
- **Businesses with predictable operating hours** – Display a lighter theme during the day and switch to Dark Mode at night without manual intervention.

**Benefit:** Automatically provides a more comfortable viewing experience based on a predefined schedule.

## 5. Sunset Mode

### Use Cases

- **Global websites with visitors from different regions** – Automatically switches themes based on each visitor's local sunrise and sunset time.
- **Reading or lifestyle websites** – Reduces eye strain by enabling Dark Mode naturally after sunset.

**Benefit:** Offers the most natural experience by adapting to the visitor's local daylight conditions without requiring manual time configuration.