

#### **SEO Audit Cheatsheet**

A comprehensive cheat sheet for conducting effective SEO audits, covering technical SEO, on-page optimization, content quality, and off-page factors.



## **Technical SEO Audit**

#### Crawlability & Indexing

Robots.txt Check	Ensure important pages aren't blocked.  Action: Review the robots.txt file for unintended disallows.
XML Sitemap	Verify its presence and submission to search engines.  Action: Check for errors and update frequency.
Index Coverage	Check the number of indexed pages in Google Search Console.  Action: Compare to expected number and investigate discrepancies.
Broken Links	Identify and fix broken internal and external links.  Action: Use a crawler to find 404 errors.
Redirects	Ensure proper implementation of redirects (301 for permanent, 302 for temporary).  Action: Audit redirect chains and loops.
Mobile- Friendliness	Test website's responsiveness on different devices.  Action: Use Google's Mobile-Friendly Test.

#### Site Speed & Performance

Page Load Time	Assess page speed using tools like PageSpeed Insights and GTmetrix.  Action: Identify and address slow-loading elements.
Image Optimization	Ensure images are compressed and properly sized.  Action: Use tools to compress images without losing quality.
Caching	Implement browser and server-side caching.  Action: Leverage caching plugins or configure server settings.
Minification	Minify CSS, JavaScript, and HTML files.  Action: Remove unnecessary characters from code files.
Content Delivery Network (CDN)	Use a CDN to distribute content across multiple servers.  Action: Improve loading times for users in different geographic locations.
Hosting	Analyze hosting plans and server locations.  Action: Ensure the site is hosted in the correct geographic location and the server is adequate for the traffic.

# On-Page SEO Audit

#### Keyword Usage

Title Tags	Ensure each page has a unique title tag with relevant keywords.  Action: Check title length (ideally under 60 characters).
Meta Descriptions	Write compelling meta descriptions that include target keywords.  Action: Keep descriptions concise (under 160 characters).
Header Tags	Use H1-H6 tags to structure content and include relevant keywords. <b>Action:</b> Ensure only one H1 tag per page.
Content Body	Incorporate keywords naturally within the body of the content.  Action: Avoid keyword stuffing.
Image Alt Text	Add descriptive alt text to images, including relevant keywords.  Action: Improve accessibility and search engine understanding.
URL Structure	Create SEO-friendly URLs that are concise and include keywords.  Action: Avoid long, complex URLs.

## Content Quality & Relevance

Content Length	Ensure content is comprehensive and provides value to users.  Action: Aim for longer, in-depth content.
Readability	Write content that is easy to understand.  Action: Use tools to assess readability scores (e.g., Flesch Reading Ease).
Freshness	Keep content updated and relevant.  Action: Regularly review and update content to reflect current information.
Originality	Ensure content is unique and not duplicated from other sources.  Action: Use plagiarism checkers to identify and address duplicate content.
User Engagement	Analyze bounce rate, time on page, and other engagement metrics.  Action: Improve content to increase user engagement.
Content Accuracy	Ensure all claims, statistics, and facts presented are accurate and up- to-date.  Action: Vet content for any false or misleading information.

# Off-Page SEO Audit

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Backlink Quantity	Assess the number of backlinks pointing to the website.  Action: Use tools like Ahrefs, SEMrush, or Majestic to analyze backlink data.
Backlink Quality	Evaluate the authority and relevance of referring domains.  Action: Focus on acquiring backlinks from high-quality, reputable sources.
Anchor Text Distribution	Analyze the distribution of anchor text used in backlinks. <b>Action:</b> Ensure a natural mix of branded, generic, and keywordrich anchor text.
Toxic Backlinks	Identify and disavow harmful backlinks.  Action: Use tools to identify potential toxic links and submit a disavow file to Google.
Link Diversity	Check the diversity of backlink sources (e.g., blogs, news sites, directories).  Action: Acquire links from a variety of relevant sources.
Referring Domains	Assess the number of unique domains linking to the site. <b>Action:</b> Aim to increase this number.

Social Media Presence	Evaluate the website's presence and engagement on social media platforms.  Action: Ensure active and engaging social media profiles.
Social Shares	Monitor social shares of website content.  Action: Encourage social sharing through share buttons and engaging content.
Brand Mentions	Track mentions of the brand across the web.  Action: Use tools like Google Alerts or Mention to monitor brand mentions.
Reputation Management	Monitor online reviews and feedback.  Action: Address negative reviews promptly and professionally.
Local Citations	Verify the consistency and accuracy of NAP (Name, Address, Phone number) information across online directories.  Action: Update any incorrect or outdated information.
Industry Authority	Evaluate the website's authority within its industry.  Action: Participate in industry discussions and contribute valuable content to establish authority.

# **Competitive Analysis & Reporting**

## Competitor Analysis

Identifying Competitors	Determine key competitors in the search landscape.  Action: Identify competitors ranking for target keywords.
Keyword Gaps	Identify keywords competitors are ranking for but the website is not.  Action: Use tools to find keyword opportunities.
Content Gaps	Analyze content topics covered by competitors but not by the website.  Action: Identify content opportunities to fill gaps.
Backlink Analysis	Compare backlink profiles to identify link-building opportunities.  Action: Analyze competitor backlinks to find potential sources.
Content Strategy	Assess competitor's content strategy, including frequency, content types, and engagement.  Action: Compare with your strategy.
Technical SEO Comparison	Compare technical SEO aspects like site speed, mobile- friendliness, and site structure.  Action: Review and resolve technical SEO issues.

## Reporting & Recommendations

Audit Summary	Provide a summary of key findings from the SEO audit.  Action: Highlight strengths and weaknesses.
Prioritized Recommendations	List actionable recommendations based on the audit findings.  Action: Prioritize recommendations based on impact and effort.
Implementation Plan	Outline a plan for implementing the recommendations.  Action: Include timelines and responsibilities.
Performance Tracking	Define metrics to track the impact of implemented changes.  Action: Monitor key performance indicators (KPIs) like organic traffic and rankings.
Regular Monitoring	Set up ongoing monitoring to detect new issues and track progress.  Action: Schedule regular audits to maintain SEO health.
Reporting Schedule	Establish a reporting schedule to communicate results and progress.  Action: Regular report to stakeholders on SEO efforts.

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