

Tips for AW3423DWF Users

Best settings as of 12/25/23

First, upgrade the firmware to the newest version using this link.

<https://www.dell.com/support/home/en-si/drivers/driversdetails?driverid=8t8r7>

Monitor settings:

Game

- Preset Mode: Creator
- Game Enhance Mode: Off
- Console Mode: Off
- AlienVision: Off

Brightness/Contrast:

- 75%
- 75%

Display:

- Aspect Ratio: 21:9
- Input Color Format: RGB
- Sharpness: 50
- Smart HDR: HDR Peak 1000

Leave all other settings default.

Windows 11 has much better HDR implementation than Windows 10, so you should upgrade to Windows 11 to use this monitor to its fullest potential.

Windows HDR Settings

System > Display > HDR

- Select your AW3423DWF in the display dropdown
- Enable Use HDR
- Enable HDR video streaming
- Enable Auto HDR
- Adjust SDR content brightness to taste. I have mine set at 25.

HDR Calibration app is available on the Windows Store. It can be a bit buggy, but if you choose to run it, pay attention to the numbers on the sliders more than how the screen looks. The minimum should be set to 0 and the maximum should be 1000. Running this tool is probably unnecessary, but if you feel like your screen doesn't look right when viewing HDR content, it might help.

If you feel non-HDR content looks bad, you can toggle HDR on and off using Win+Alt+B. Some users only toggle HDR on when gaming. Personally, I think it looks fine with these settings, and leave it on all the time.

The AW3423DWF has an OLED screen, so you should take steps to prevent or reduce potential burn-in. Burn-in is caused by long term exposure to static images on the screen.

- Remove all icons from the desktop. If you have a secondary monitor, move your icons over to it. If not, you can right-click on the desktop and choose View > Uncheck Show Desktop Icons.
- Set your taskbar to automatically hide. Right click the taskbar > Taskbar Settings > Taskbar behaviors > Automatically hide the taskbar. You can summon the taskbar by moving your mouse near the bottom of the screen or pressing the Win key. If you have Display Fusion and a second monitor, it can be set to show the taskbar only on the second monitor.
- Set your wallpaper to change automatically every 30 minutes. Download a bunch of 3440x1440 wallpapers and stick them in a folder. Here's 180+ Wallpapers to get you started: <https://imgur.com/a/20g2bh1>. In Windows settings, you can choose "Slideshow" as the background type and point it to the folder. You can also use an application like Display Fusion or Wallpaper Engine to set different wallpapers on each monitor and control the cycling. Alternatively, you can also just set your background to full black and leave it.
- Set your monitors to turn off after 10 minutes of inactivity in Settings > System > Power.
- After four hours of use, the monitor will prompt you to do a "pixel refresh". The first time you see this prompt, choose the option "Perform the refresh during standby and don't prompt again". Combined with the previous point, this means the refresh will happen automatically as needed whenever you leave the PC for more than 10 minutes. During the refresh, the power indicator light will turn green. If you see the light is green, try to let it finish before waking up your PC. The light will turn back to white once the refresh is complete.
- You do not need to stop what you're doing and perform the pixel refresh every four hours. The monitor is not that fragile. It will be fine. Plus, there is a 3 year warranty against burn-in, so you can always RMA the monitor if burn-in appears within the first 3 years.
- *Optional:* If you watch a lot of Youtube videos, you will notice black bars on each side of the screen for most videos because they are in 16:9 ratio. These can also cause burn-in from uneven wear. I recommend a browser extension called "Ambient Light for YouTube" to remove the bars. Use the settings in this reddit post <https://redd.it/13g3ply>. Most videos will then look very nice in full screen with no black bars.

When cleaning the screen, use only distilled water and a microfiber cloth. Dampen the cloth slightly and wipe clean. Do not spray the screen with water, and do not use any glass cleaners or alcohol wipes as these will permanently damage the screen's coating. DISTILLED WATER ONLY!

Cheers!

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