

Choose a theme

Design and templates

A theme restyles your whole help center in one step: colors, fonts, spacing and the layout of every page. You choose which parts to take from it, and nothing changes for visitors until you publish.

Who can do this: Owners and Admins (Editors through **Customize** on your help center) · **Plans:** All plans, with every theme included

Apply a theme

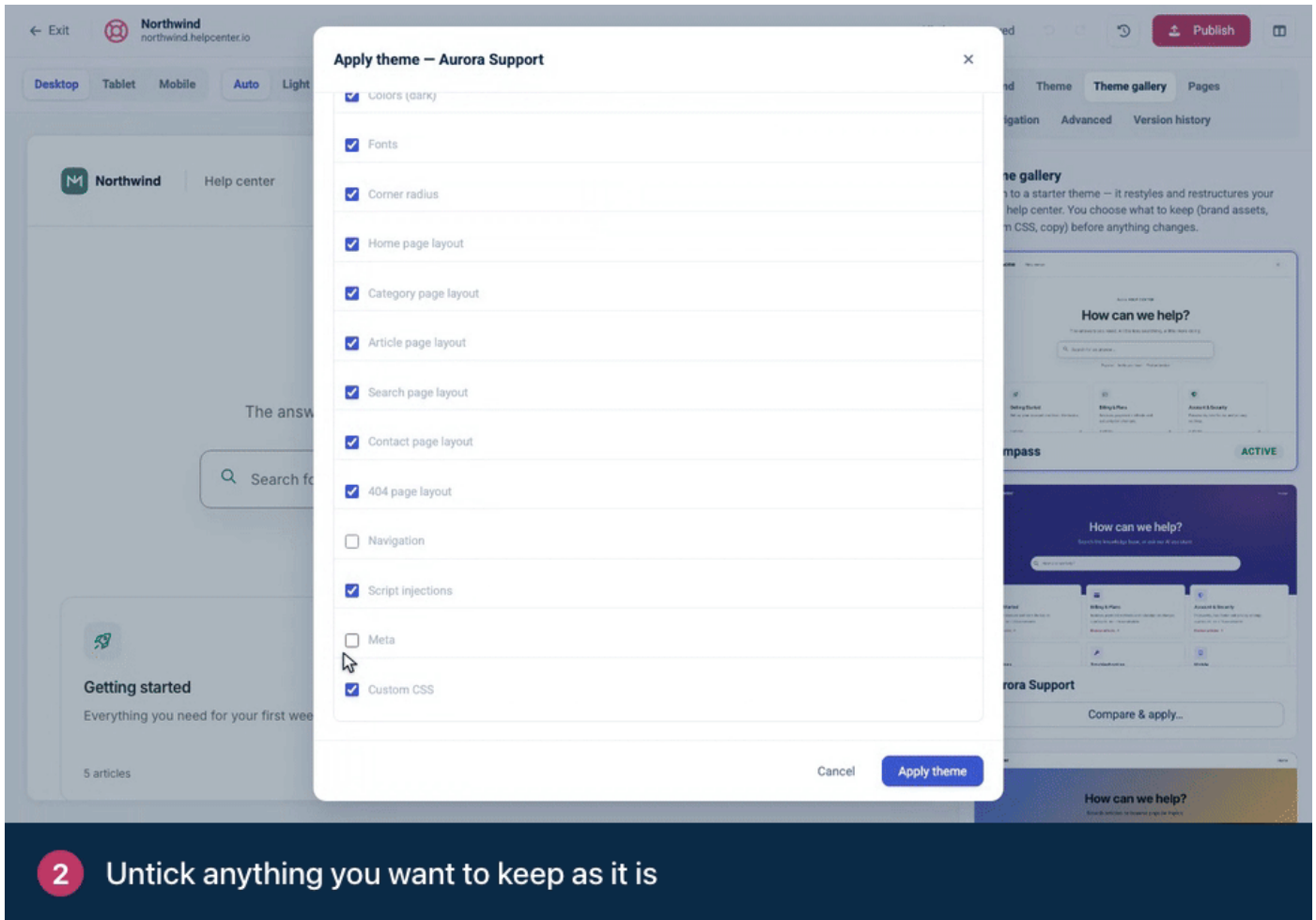
1. In the template editor, open the **Theme gallery** tab (⌘3). The theme you use now is marked **Active**.
2. Click **Compare & apply...** on the theme you want.
3. In the dialog, untick every part you want to keep as it is now. The dialog lists only the parts that differ from your current design.

The screenshot shows the Northwind help center editor. The top navigation bar includes 'Exit', 'Northwind northwind.helpcenter.io', 'All changes saved', and a 'Publish' button. Below this is a toolbar with 'Desktop', 'Tablet', 'Mobile', 'Auto', 'Light', 'Dark', 'English (default)', 'Select to edit', 'Previewing: Home', and 'Open in new tab'. The main preview area displays the 'How can we help?' page with a search bar, 'Ask AI' button, and article cards for 'Getting started' and 'Home Dock charger'. The right sidebar shows the 'Theme gallery' with tabs for 'Brand', 'Theme', 'Theme gallery', and 'Pages'. Under 'Theme gallery', there are tabs for 'Navigation', 'Advanced', and 'Version history'. The 'Theme gallery' section explains that it allows switching to a starter theme to restyle and restructure the help center. Below this, three theme preview cards are shown: 'Compass' (ACTIVE), 'Aurora Support', and 'Aurora Center'. The 'Aurora Support' card has a 'Compare & apply...' button. A dark blue banner at the bottom of the screenshot contains the text: '1 In Theme gallery, click Compare & apply... on a theme'. Below the banner, the text 'Untick the parts of your design you want to keep.' is displayed.

1 In Theme gallery, click **Compare & apply...** on a theme

Untick the parts of your design you want to keep.

4. Click **Apply theme**. The preview switches to the new theme and shows your Home page.
5. Look through your pages. When you're happy, click **Publish**.



The new theme stays a draft until you publish.

Not sure which theme to pick? See [Which theme is right for you?](#) or see screenshots of every theme at helpcenter.io/knowledge-base-templates.

Choose what to keep

Every part in the dialog starts ticked except **Brand**. A ticked part is replaced by the theme's version. Anything you untick stays exactly as you have it.

Part

What applying it replaces

Brand	Your site name, tagline, logo, dark-mode logo and favicon. Themes come with a sample name and no logo, so leave this unticked unless you're starting from scratch.
Colors (light), Colors (dark)	Your light and dark color palettes.
Fonts, Corner radius, Density	Your fonts, the roundness of corners and the spacing.
Home page layout, Category page layout, Article page layout, Search page layout, Contact page layout, 404 page layout	That page's layout and every component on it, including its header, hero, footer and their texts.
Navigation	Your header and footer links. Some themes bring sample links, others none.
Script injections	Your scripts, such as analytics, chat and site verification tags. Most themes have none, so this removes yours.

Meta

Your SEO and social sharing settings from the **Brand** tab: default page title, meta description, keywords, **Hide from search engines (no-index)**, **Nofollow external links** and the Open Graph fields.

Custom CSS

Your custom CSS snippets, replaced by the theme's own CSS (or by none).

Keep what already works. Untick **Script injections** to keep your analytics and chat, **Navigation** to keep your links and **Custom CSS** to keep your styling. Untick **Meta** to keep your SEO settings: applying it also turns off **Hide from search engines (no-index)** if you use it. Untick **Contact page layout** to keep your contact form: themes come with an empty recipient address, so applying it hides your contact page and any "Ask us" buttons until you add the address again.

Switching to Compass? Its light and dark switch and its search shortcut run as two scripts that come with the theme. They're added only if you leave **Script injections** ticked, which also replaces your own scripts, so add yours back under **Advanced** afterwards.

Changed your mind?

Applying a theme isn't added to the undo history, so don't rely on ⌘Z to take it back. To return to your published design, click **Reset draft** (the clock icon in the top bar) and confirm. That also discards every other unpublished change, so publish the work you want to keep before you try a new theme.

If you already published the new theme, open **Version history** and restore an earlier version. See [Restore an earlier design](#).

Good to know

- Themes never touch your articles, categories or languages.
- Everything a theme sets stays editable afterwards: colors, fonts, pages and components.
- On a help center with one language, themes leave out their language switcher. Add it to your header once you add a second language.
- When your draft already has everything a theme would change, the dialog says "Your draft already matches this theme." and there's nothing to apply.

Troubleshooting

"Your latest edits could not be saved" when you click Apply theme. The editor saves your draft before it applies a theme. Fix the save problem first (click **Retry save** in the banner at the top), then apply the theme again.

My contact page disappeared. You applied **Contact page layout**. Add your recipient email to the Contact form again. See [Set up your contact page and form](#).

My analytics stopped working. You applied **Script injections**. Add your scripts again under **Advanced**. See [Add analytics and other scripts](#).

My page title in search results changed. You applied **Meta**. Set your title and description again under **Brand**. See [SEO settings for your help center](#).

Related articles

- [Which theme is right for you?](#)
- [Change colors, fonts and spacing](#)
- [Publish your design](#)