Font Awesome Icons Not Showing or Appearing as Squares in WordPress

Troubleshooting · https://wpfactory.com/docs/font-awesome-icon-not-showing/

When you add an icon to the button in Back Button Anywhere Widget for WordPress with the `fa` attribute and it renders as a blank square, the Font Awesome stylesheet is almost always missing. Font Awesome is a free feature, and it is controlled in the Font Awesome section under **WPFactory > Back Button**.

Common symptoms

- A blank square or unknown-character symbol appears instead of the icon.
- Text styling works, but the icon glyph does not render.

Typical causes

- The Font Awesome library is not loaded on the page.
- Two different Font Awesome versions are loaded (from the theme, another plugin, and this plugin) and clash.
- The icon class in the shortcode is wrong.

Step-by-step fix

1. **Enable Font Awesome loading:** in the Font Awesome section, set **Load** to **Yes** so the stylesheet is added to your pages.
2. **Avoid double loading:** if your theme or another plugin already loads Font Awesome, set **Load** to **No** here so only one copy loads.
3. **Use a valid icon class:** match the version you have loaded, for example `[alg_back_button fa="fas fa-chevron-left" fa_template="%icon% Back"]`. Check the `fa-` prefix and the exact icon name.
4. **Clear caches and reload:** flush your caching plugin and browser cache, then view the page.

5. **Inspect in the browser:** open dev tools, reload, and check the Network tab to confirm the Font Awesome CSS and font files load without errors.

> **Note:** the default Font Awesome URL in settings points at a Font Awesome 6 build. If you paste your own URL, make sure the icon classes you use match that version, since class names differ between major versions.

If the icon still will not load

Fall back to a plain text label, or a CSS background image, and reach out on the Back Button Widget support forum with your Font Awesome version and the shortcode you used.



BACK BUTTON ANYWHERE WIDGET FOR WORDPRESS

See every feature and the pricing on the Back Button Anywhere Widget for WordPress plugin page.

View plugin →

Related articles

- How to Add a Font Awesome Icon to the Back Button
- Back Button Not Showing or Working
- How to Customize the Back Button (Color, Style, Position, Icon)
- Understanding Back Button Navigation Behavior
- Back Button Widget Issues with Custom or Block Themes