Persistent symbols are symbols that remain in place for more than one spin or game event. Instead of disappearing as soon as a result is evaluated, they may stay on the reels, build up over several spins, or remain for the length of a bonus feature. Whether they **carry into later rounds** depends on the rules of the specific slot. “Persistent” is not a universal setting with one standard meaning.

The important details are in the game’s help screen and paytable: which symbols can persist, when they are placed, what counts as a win, and what causes them to disappear. Before watching the animations, check those rules. A symbol that looks fixed on screen may be part of a short feature, while one that appears to vanish may still be tracked by a meter or feature counter.

This guide explains how persistent symbols work in general. It does not describe a particular game, and it does not give prices or payout values. If a scraped description contains no prices, there is no sound basis for adding them. Use the game’s current paytable and the casino’s displayed information rather than guessing.

What “Persistent” Usually Means

In a slot, a persistent symbol stays visible or active across a defined sequence of events. For example, it might remain on a reel after a spin, stay locked during a respin feature, or be carried through a series of free spins. Some games use persistent symbols to help form wins; others use them to fill a meter, unlock a prize, or change the feature state.

The word describes how long the symbol remains under the game’s rules. It does not, by itself, tell you whether the symbol is valuable, whether it pays, or whether it guarantees a win. A persistent symbol could be a wild, a regular paying symbol, a bonus symbol, or a special marker that has no direct payout.

Persistence can apply to different things

- **The visible symbol:** It stays in the same reel position for one or more spins.
- **A locked position:** The reel position is held, though the game may change what the symbol does.
- **A feature state:** A counter, collected symbol, or modifier remains active even if the original symbol is no longer visible.
- **A bonus round:** Symbols may persist within the bonus, but disappear when the feature ends.

These are not interchangeable. If a help screen says a symbol “remains locked,” that may refer to the symbol’s position during a particular feature. It does not necessarily mean it will be present on the next paid spin after the feature finishes.

Do Persistent Symbols Carry Into Later Rounds?

Sometimes, but only for the period specified by the game. Persistent symbols may carry into later spins within a feature, into later stages of a bonus, or into a new round under a special rule. In many games, they reset as soon as the feature ends. There is no general rule that says a symbol persists from one completed round to the next.

Look for clear wording in the help screen, such as “for the duration of the feature,” “until the feature ends,” or “carried over to the next free spin.” These phrases define the scope. If the rules do not say that a symbol survives a feature ending or a new round, do not assume it does.



Rule wording or situation What it may mean What to verify Held during respins The symbol stays in place for the remaining respins. Whether it is released when the respin feature ends. Present during free spins The symbol may remain or be added during that bonus. Whether persistence lasts for all free spins or only a stage. Collected on a meter Progress may remain even when the symbol is no longer shown. When the meter fills, pays, or resets. “Carry over” stated in the rules A defined item or state moves into a later game event. Exactly which event it carries into and when it is cleared.

The phrase “later rounds” can also be ambiguous. It might mean the next spin in a bonus, the next respin, a later bonus stage, or a new paid spin. Check how the game defines the event rather than relying on casual wording in a review or promotional description.

How Ordinary Symbols and Wins Are Evaluated

Persistent symbols make more sense once you understand how the game evaluates ordinary symbols. A standard paying symbol usually contributes to a win only when it appears in a qualifying pattern set out by the game. The pattern can depend on the number of matching symbols, their positions, and the game’s chosen win system.

For instance, one game may require matching symbols on a payline. Another may count matches on adjacent reels, while a cluster game may pay for a group of connected symbols. A symbol remaining on screen does not automatically form a winning pattern. Its position and the game’s evaluation rules still matter.

Paylines

In a paylines game, wins are evaluated along defined lines across the reels. The paytable or game rules should show which lines are active and what symbol combinations qualify. A persistent symbol can help complete a payline only if it occupies a position on a valid line and meets the symbol’s rules. A matching symbol elsewhere on the grid may not count.

Adjacent pays

Some slots evaluate matches across neighboring reels, often starting from a specified side. These are sometimes described as ways-to-win systems, though the exact arrangement varies. A persistent symbol may contribute if it

appears in the required sequence of adjacent reels. It may not count if it is separated from the sequence or falls outside the game's stated direction of evaluation.

Cluster pays

Cluster games typically look for a required number of matching symbols that touch horizontally, vertically, or according to another stated connection rule. The symbols may need to form one connected group. A persistent symbol can be useful if it joins that group, but only if the game treats that symbol as eligible and its position meets the cluster rules.

Do not assume that a symbol pays "anywhere" just because it stays visible across spins. The paytable must say how the game evaluates wins. "Anywhere" may mean a particular number of symbols in any position, but it may still have exclusions, minimum counts, or other conditions.

Theme and Visuals Do Not Equal Identical Rules

Two slots can share a theme, character, symbol design, or visual effect and still use different mechanics. A glowing symbol, a locked frame, or an animation that suggests a symbol has been "saved" does not prove that it carries into the next round. Visuals help communicate a feature, but the written rules establish what the feature does.

This matters when comparing games from the same studio or games that look like sequels. One title might keep wilds only during free spins; another might hold them for a limited number of respins. A third might record collected symbols on a meter rather than leaving them on the reels. Treat each game's help screen as its own rulebook.

Casino listings and affiliate pages can summarize a feature, but they may omit conditions. If you are checking a game at MrQ or another casino, open the game's own help screen and paytable where available. MrQ is a casino brand, not the source of a slot's mathematical rules; the game information should be checked in the title itself. Likewise, references to the Malta Gaming Authority (MGA) or its full name do not establish how a particular symbol behaves. The MGA is a regulator, not a substitute for the game's feature rules.

Wild Substitution Rules and Exclusions

A wild often substitutes for one or more ordinary symbols to help complete a winning combination. But wilds are not automatically interchangeable with every symbol. A game may exclude bonus symbols, scatters, jackpots, or special feature symbols from substitution. It may also limit wild substitution to particular reels, positions, or game modes.

Persistence does not remove those limits. A persistent wild may remain on the reels but still be unable to substitute for a scatter or bonus symbol. It may also have a special role, such as multiplying a win, expanding, or counting toward a feature, without acting as a regular substitute at all.

Questions to check about persistent wilds

- Which symbols can the wild substitute for?
- Are scatters, bonus symbols, or jackpot symbols excluded?
- Does the wild work on every reel and in every game mode?
- Does it stay in the same position, or can it move or expand?
- Can it contribute to a win while locked, or does it only affect a feature?

- Does the wild's persistence end after a spin, a feature, or a bonus round?

Read the exact wording. "Wilds substitute for regular symbols" normally signals that some symbols are excluded, but the paytable should identify them. If the help screen is unclear, do not infer the exclusions from the artwork or from how a similar game works.

Reset Rules: When Symbols Disappear or Progress Clears

Reset rules define when a persistent symbol, counter, or feature state stops carrying forward. This is one of the most important parts of the help screen because it sets the boundary of persistence. A symbol may remain for several spins and then be removed when a feature ends. A collected-symbol meter may reset after it awards a prize, after a bonus round, or at another stated point.

Common reset points include:

- the end of a respin sequence;
- the end of free spins or a bonus round;
- a win, collection, or feature award that clears the relevant symbols;
- the start of a new paid round; or
- a specific event described in the game rules.

These are examples, not universal conditions. A game can use a different reset trigger, and more than one rule may apply. If symbols are held until a feature ends, for example, a separate rule might remove them earlier when a particular prize is collected.

Also distinguish between a visual reset and a progress reset. The symbol might disappear while a meter remains partly filled. Conversely, a symbol might remain visible while its previous win contribution has already been evaluated. The game's rules should clarify what is retained: the image, the position, the collected count, or the feature effect.

A Simple Checklist Before You Play

Use this checklist when a game description mentions persistent symbols. It helps avoid treating a visual effect as a promise that symbols will last indefinitely.

1. **Trigger count:** How many symbols or events start the feature? Does the game state a minimum count?
2. **Reel positions:** Do symbols stay in their exact positions, or can they move, expand, or be replaced?
3. **Win evaluation:** Are wins based on paylines, adjacent reels, clusters, or another method?
4. **Exclusions:** Can persistent wilds substitute for every paying symbol, or are scatters and bonus symbols excluded?
5. **Retriggers:** Can the feature be triggered again while it is active? If so, what is added or extended?
6. **Reset rules:** What event clears the symbols, meter, or collected progress?

Check the paytable for symbol values and winning combinations, then read the feature explanation for persistence and reset conditions. Do not fill gaps with assumptions. If the game screen does not state a price or payout figure, do not invent one; figures can depend on the game, selected stake, or displayed paytable. This article intentionally includes no prices because no verified price information has been provided.



The Bottom Line

Persistent symbols are symbols or dearblessings feature states that remain active across a defined sequence of spins or rounds. They can carry into later rounds, but only when the game's rules say they do. Persistence may last for a respin sequence, a bonus round, or another clearly defined period; it does not automatically extend to the next paid spin.

To understand what a persistent symbol can do, check how ordinary wins are evaluated, whether the game uses paylines, adjacent pays, or clusters, and which wild substitutions are allowed. Then confirm the reset rules. The theme and animation can suggest what is happening, but the help screen and paytable are what settle it.