

# Add or remove add-ins in Excel

Archived: 2026-04-06 01:29:04 UTC

## ► Applies To

Add-ins provide optional commands and features for Microsoft Excel. By default, add-ins are not immediately available in Excel, so you must first install and (in some cases) activate these add-ins so that you can use them.

Are you looking for information about Office Add-ins based on HTML, CSS, and JS? If you are, see [Get an Office Add-in for Excel](#).

Some add-ins are built in to Excel, such as Solver and the Analysis ToolPak. Other add-ins are available from the Download Center and must first be downloaded and installed. Finally, there are add-ins that are created by third parties, such as a programmer in your organization or a software solution provider. These can be Component Object Model (COM) add-ins, Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) add-ins, and DLL add-ins. These add-ins must also be installed to use them.

Most add-ins can be categorized into three different types:

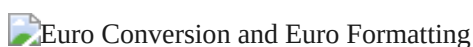
- **Excel add-ins** These typically include Excel add-in (.xlam), Excel 97-2003 add-in (.xla), DLL add-in (.dll) files, or they're automation add-ins. Some Excel add-ins, such as Solver and the Analysis ToolPak, may be available after you install Excel or Microsoft Office. Typically, you only need to activate these add-ins to use them.
- **Downloadable add-ins** Additional add-ins for Excel can be downloaded and installed from [Downloads](#) at Office.com.
- **Custom add-ins** Developers and solution providers usually design custom Component Object Model (COM) add-ins, automation add-ins, VBA add-ins, and XLL add-ins. These must be installed for you to use them.

After you have installed or activated an add-in, the add-in and its commands may be available in one of the following locations:

- **Data** tab. After you install and activate the Analysis ToolPak and Solver add-ins, the **Data Analysis** and **Solver** commands are available in the **Analysis** group.



- **Formulas** tab. After you install and activate the Euro Currency Tools, the **Euro Conversion** and **Euro Formatting** commands are displayed in the **Solutions** group.



- **Add-Ins** tab. Other add-ins may be added to the **Add-Ins** tab. This tab is added to the ribbon when you install and activate the first add-in that is shown in the **Add-Ins** tab. If you don't see the **Add-Ins** tab, you should exit and then restart Excel.

Other add-ins, such as the **Get Started** tab, are available in other places in Excel, such as a tab on the ribbon, or through macros or customized menus.

**Important:** If you are a software developer, you can use this procedure to install or remove an automation program before you design installation and removal programs for your add-in.

### To activate an Excel add-in

1. Click **File > Get Add-ins**.

Alternatively, you can click **Home > Add-ins**.

 Screenshot of the add-ins in Office from Home tab.

2. You can directly install add-ins from this page or select **More Add-ins** to explore.
3. In the Office Add-ins, dialog select **My Add-ins** tab.
4. Select the add-in you wish to activate and right click to see option to activate.

If you cannot find the add-in that you want to activate in the **Office Add-Ins** box, you may need to install it.

### To install an Excel add-in

- To install an add-in that is typically installed with Excel, such as Solver or the Analysis ToolPak, run the setup program for Excel or Microsoft Office and choose the **Change** option to install the add-in. After you restart Excel, the add-in should appear in the **Add-Ins available** box.
- Some Excel add-ins are located on your computer and can be installed or activated by clicking **Browse** (in the **Add-Ins** dialog box) to locate the add-in, and then clicking **OK**.
- Some Excel add-ins require running an installation package. You may need to download or copy the installation package to your computer (an installation package is typically a file with an .msi file name extension), and then run it.
- Other add-ins that are not available on your computer can be downloaded and installed through a Web browser from [Downloads](#) or from other sites on the Internet or a server in your organization. Follow the setup instructions for the download as needed.

### To inactivate an Excel add-in

1. Click **File > Get Add-ins**.

Alternatively, you can click **Home > Add-ins**.

 Screenshot of the add-ins in Office from Home tab.

2. You can directly install add-ins from this page or select **More Add-ins** to explore.
3. In the Office Add-ins, dialog select **My Add-ins** tab.
4. Select the add-in you wish to inactivate and right click to see options to inactivate.

**Note:** Inactivating an add-in does not remove the add-in from your computer. To remove the add-in from your computer, you must uninstall it.

### To remove an Excel add-in

**Important:** If you originally installed the Excel add-in from a network file server or from a shared folder, you might need to remove the add-in from that location. If you installed the Excel add-in from a CD and you mapped your CD drive to a new drive letter after installing the add-in, you need to reinstall the add-in from the CD. If you are running any Excel add-ins from the CD, you must uninstall the Excel add-ins, and then reinstall them from the CD.

1. Click the **File** tab, and then click **Exit**.
2. In Control Panel, click **Programs and Features** (Windows 7 and Windows Vista) or **Add/Remove Programs** (Windows XP).
3. Do one of the following:
  - If you installed Excel as part of Microsoft Office, click **Microsoft Office** in the list of installed programs, and then click the **Change** button.
  - If you installed Excel individually, click the name of your program in the list of installed programs, and then click the **Change** button.
  - If you installed the add-in from the Download Center, click the name of your program in the list of installed programs, and then click the **Uninstall** button.
4. Follow the instructions in the installation program.

**Important:** If you are a software developer, you can use this procedure to install or remove an automation program before you design installation and removal programs for your add-in. If you are not a developer, you should not need to use this procedure. Contact the system administrator who provided the add-in if you want installation and removal instructions.

### Add a COM add-in

1. Click the **File** tab, click **Options**, and then click the **Add-Ins** category.
2. In the **Manage** box, click **COM Add-ins**, and then click **Go**.

The **COM Add-Ins** dialog box appears.

3. In the **Add-Ins available** box, select the check box next to the add-in that you want to install, and then click **OK**.

**Tip** If the add-in that you want to use is not listed in the **Add-Ins available** box, click **Add**, and then locate the add-in.

#### Remove a COM add-in

1. Click the **File** tab, click **Options**, and then click the **Add-Ins** category.
2. In the **Manage** box, click **COM Add-ins**, and then click **Go**.

The **COM Add-Ins** dialog box appears.

3. In the **Add-Ins available** box, clear the check box next to the add-in that you want to remove, and then click **OK**.

**Note** This removes the add-in from memory but keeps its name in the list of available add-ins. It does not delete the add-in from your computer.

4. To remove a COM add-in from the list of available add-ins and to delete the add-in from your computer, click its name in the **Add-ins available** box, and then click **Remove**.

**Note:** If you are a software developer, you can use this procedure to install or remove an automation program before you design installation and removal programs for your add-in. If you are not a developer, you should not need to use this procedure. Contact the system administrator who provided the add-in if you want installation and removal instructions.

1. Click the **File** tab, click **Options**, and then click the **Add-Ins** category.
2. In the **Manage** box, click **Excel Add-ins**, and then click **Go**.

The **Add-Ins** dialog box appears.

3. To install an automation add-in, in the **Automation servers available** box, click **Automation**, and then click the add-in that you want.

**Tip** If the add-in that you want isn't in the list, click **Browse**, locate the add-in, and then click **OK**.

4. To remove an automation add-in, you must remove it from the registry. See your system administrator for details.

#### Need more help?

#### Want more options?

Explore subscription benefits, browse training courses, learn how to secure your device, and more.

Source: <https://support.office.com/article/Add-or-remove-add-ins-0af570c4-5cf3-4fa9-9b88-403625a0b460>