

Common File Extensions

File Extension	Description
AC\$	A temporary work file.
ACTM	An AutoCAD action file created with the action recorder.
ADS	An AutoCAD Development System application. Type (XLOAD <i>filename</i>) on the command line to load.
ADT	Audit report files created with the AUDIT command.
ARG	When you export a profile, you create a registry (.arg) file.
ARX	An AutoCAD Runtime Extension application file.
ASC	General ASCII scan file.
BAK	Backup drawing files created by AutoCAD the second time a drawing is saved and all times thereafter (when ISAVEBAK = 1).
BK n	Emergency backup files numbered sequentially (bk1, bk2, bk3, etc.) when AutoCAD unexpectedly terminates.
BMP	A Windows bitmap file.
CDF	An attribute extract file in the comma delimited format.
CFG	A configuration file.
CL3	Topcon scan file.
CLR	Topcon scan file.
CUI	An AutoCAD user interface customization file (menu file) prior to AutoCAD 2010.
CUIx	An AutoCAD user interface customization file (menu file) for AutoCAD 2010 and later releases.
CUS	A custom dictionary file.
DCE	A dialog box error report file created if errors are found when trying to load a DCL file.
DCL	AutoCAD dialog control language description file.
DEF	ADS source code file.

File Extension	Description
DLL	A platform-specific, dynamic-linked library file.
DWF	Design Web Format file for posting drawings on the Internet.
DWFx	Design Web Format file based on XPS specifications for posting drawings on the Internet.
DWG	The native AutoCAD drawing file extension.
DWK	An AutoCAD drawing lock file.
DWL	A temporary lock file for an externally referenced drawing.
DWS	An AutoCAD drawing standards file.
DWT	An AutoCAD drawing template file.
DXB	A drawing interchange file in binary format.
DXF	A drawing interchange file in ASCII format.
DXX	An attribute extract file in DXF format.
EPS	An encapsulated PostScript file.
ERR	An error file, created when AutoCAD “crashes,” containing diagnostic information.
EXE	An executable program file.
FAS	Binary, compiled version of a single LSP program file.
FLS	Faro scan file.
FMP	AutoCAD font map.
FWS	Faro scan file.
GIF	A graphics interchange format raster file.
HTM/HTML	Hypertext Markup Language file.
IAM	Autodesk Inventor assembly file.
INI	A program initialization file where basic settings for an application are stored.
IPT	Autodesk Inventor part file.
LAS	LIDAR data exchange file.
LIN	A linetype library file.

File Extension	Description
LOG	This file is a history of all commands and variables used in a drawing session.
LSP	An AutoLISP file.
MAX	The native file format for Autodesk 3ds Max®.
MLN	A multiline library file.
OLD	The original version of a converted drawing file.
PAT	A hatch pattern library file.
PC2	Complete plot configuration file for AutoCAD releases prior to AutoCAD 2000.
PC3	Complete information about a given plot device. Replaces PC2 and PCP files.
PCP	A plot configuration parameters file for AutoCAD releases prior to AutoCAD 2000.
PCX	A bitmap raster image file.
PGP	AutoCAD program parameters file.
PLT	A plot output file. Also called a “plot file.”
PNG	A Portable Network Graphics file; often used on websites.
PTG	Leica scan file.
PTS	Leica scan file.
PTX	Leica scan file.
RCP	Point cloud project file.
RCS	Point cloud scan file.
SAB	A binary file that stores solid model geometry.
SAT	An ASCII file that stores solid model geometry.
SCR	A command script file.
SDF	An attribute extract file in the space delimited format.
SHX	An AutoCAD font and shape file.
SLB	A slide library file.
SLD	A slide file.
STL	A stereolithography file.

File Extension	Description
SV\$	An automatically saved drawing file.
TGA	A Truevision graphics adapter file; a raster image file.
TIF/TIFF	A Tagged Image File Format file.
TXT	An ASCII text file or a general ASCII scan file.
UNT	A unit definition file.
VLX	A Visual LISP executable file; a compiled set of one or more LSP and/or dialog control language (DCL) files.
WMF	A Windows Metafile format vector file.
XAML	An Extensible Application Markup Language file; can be used in AutoCAD as the extended help file shown in a tooltip.
XLG	An external reference log file.
XLS	Microsoft Excel spreadsheet file.
XML	An Extensible Markup Language file; often used in conjunction with HTML files on a website.
XMN	An external message file.
XYB	Faro scan file.
XYZ	General ASCII scan file.