

POSTGRESQL ALTER TABLE COMMAND

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/postgresql/postgresql_alter_command.htm

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The PostgreSQL **ALTER TABLE** command is used to add, delete or modify columns in an existing table.

You would also use ALTER TABLE command to add and drop various constraints on an existing table.

Syntax:

The basic syntax of **ALTER TABLE** to add a new column in an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name ADD column_name datatype;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP COLUMN** in an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name DROP COLUMN column_name;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to change the **DATA TYPE** of a column in a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name MODIFY COLUMN column_name datatype;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to add a **NOT NULL** constraint to a column in a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name MODIFY column_name datatype NOT NULL;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD UNIQUE CONSTRAINT** to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint UNIQUE(column1, column2...);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD CHECK CONSTRAINT** to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint CHECK (CONDITION);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD PRIMARY KEY** constraint to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyPrimaryKey PRIMARY KEY (column1, column2...);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP CONSTRAINT** from a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint;
```

If you're using MySQL, the code is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP INDEX MyUniqueConstraint;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP PRIMARY KEY** constraint from a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP CONSTRAINT MyPrimaryKey;
```

If you're using MySQL, the code is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name
```

```
DROP PRIMARY KEY;
```

Example:

Consider our [COMPANY](#) table has the following records:

id	name	age	address	salary
1	Paul	32	California	20000
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000
5	David	27	Texas	85000
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000
7	James	24	Houston	10000

Following is the example to ADD a new column in an existing table:

```
testdb=# ALTER TABLE COMPANY ADD GENDER char(1);
```

Now, COMPANY table is changed and following would be output from SELECT statement:

id	name	age	address	salary	gender
1	Paul	32	California	20000	
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000	
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000	
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000	
5	David	27	Texas	85000	
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000	
7	James	24	Houston	10000	

(7 rows)

Following is the example to DROP gender column from existing table:

```
testdb=# ALTER TABLE COMPANY DROP GENDER;
```

Now, COMPANY table is changed and following would be output from SELECT statement:

id	name	age	address	salary
1	Paul	32	California	20000
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000
5	David	27	Texas	85000
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000
7	James	24	Houston	10000