

There are two ways to install npm packages: locally or globally. Choose which kind of installation to use based on how you want to use the package.

- If you want to depend on the package from your own module, using something like Node.js' `require` , then you want to install locally. This is `npm install` 's default behavior.
- If you want to use a package as a command line tool, (such as grunt CLI), then [install it globally](#).

To learn more about the `install` command, check out the [CLI doc page](#).

## 🔗Installing a Package

A package can be downloaded with the command:

```
> npm install <package_name>
```

This will create the `node_modules` directory in your current directory (if one doesn't exist yet) and will download the package to that directory.

### 🔗Test:

To confirm that `npm install` worked correctly, check to see that a `node_modules` directory exists and that it contains a directory for the package(s) you installed.

### 🔗Example:

Install a package called `lodash` . Confirm that it ran successfully by listing the contents of the `node_modules` directory, where you should see a directory called `lodash` .

### 🔗Microsoft Windows:

```
C:\> npm install lodash
C:\> dir node_modules

#=> lodash
```

### 🔗macOS, Ubuntu, Debian

```
> npm install lodash  
> ls node_modules
```

```
#=> lodash
```

## 🔗 Which Version of the Package is Installed?

If there is no `package.json` file in the local directory, the latest version of the package is installed.

If there is a `package.json` file, npm installs the latest version that satisfies the [semver rule](#) declared in `package.json`.