

Learn how to import Excel data into a MySQL database

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The following is an example walkthrough of importing an Excel document into a MySQL database. To run this tutorial you will need an Excel file, and admin access to a running MySQL instance.

For the example we'll be using the following Excel file on rental boats:

[boats.xlsx](#)

1. Open your Excel file and click Save As. Choose to save it as a .CSV (Comma Separated) file. If you are running Excel on a Mac, you will need to save the file as a Windows Comma Separated (.csv) or CSV (Windows) to maintain the correct formatting.
2. Log into your MySQL shell and create a database. For this example the database will be named `boatdb`. Note that the `--local-infile` option is needed by some versions of MySQL for the data loading we'll do in the following steps.

```
$ mysql -u root -p --local-infile
mysql> create database boatdb;
mysql> use boatdb;
```

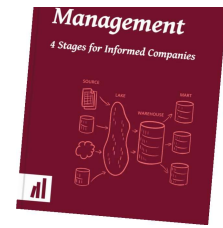
3. Next we'll define the schema for our `boat` table using the `CREATE TABLE` command. For more details, see the [MySQL documentation](#).

```
CREATE TABLE boats (
  id INT NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY,
  name VARCHAR(40),
  type VARCHAR(10),
  owner_id INT NOT NULL,
  date_made DATE,
  rental_price FLOAT
);
```

4. Run show tables to verify that your table was created.

```
mysql> show tables;
+-----+
| Tables_in_boatdb |
+-----+
| boats             |
+-----+
```

```
LOAD DATA LOCAL INFILE "/path/to/boats.csv" INTO TABLE
boatdb.boats
FIELDS TERMINATED BY ','
LINES TERMINATED BY '\n'
IGNORE 1 LINES
(id, name, type, owner_id, @datevar, rental_price)
set date_made = STR_TO_DATE(@datevar, '%m/%d/%Y');
```

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If you are a Chartio user, you can now connect the MySQL database to Chartio and chart away.



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