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### Reference

* [Groovy DSL Reference](http://docs.google.com/dsl/)
* [Gradle API Javadoc](http://docs.google.com/javadoc/)
* [Core Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/plugin_reference.html)
* [Gradle & Third-party Tools](http://docs.google.com/userguide/third_party_integration.html)

### Getting Started

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* [Writing Custom Plugins](http://docs.google.com/userguide/custom_plugins.html)
* [Plugin Development Guides](https://gradle.org/guides/?q=Plugin+Development)

[Edit this page](https://github.com/gradle/gradle/edit/master/subprojects/docs/src/docs/userguide/)

# The Checkstyle Plugin

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The Checkstyle plugin performs quality checks on your project’s Java source files using [Checkstyle](http://checkstyle.sourceforge.net/index.html) and generates reports from these checks.

[Usage](#4d34og8)

To use the Checkstyle plugin, include the following in your build script:

[Example: Using the Checkstyle plugin](#35nkun2)

**build.gradle**

apply plugin: 'checkstyle'

The plugin adds a number of tasks to the project that perform the quality checks. You can execute the checks by running gradle check.

Note that Checkstyle will run with the same Java version used to run Gradle.

[Tasks](#2s8eyo1)

The Checkstyle plugin adds the following tasks to the project:

checkstyleMain — [Checkstyle](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.plugins.quality.Checkstyle.html)

*Depends on*: classes

Runs Checkstyle against the production Java source files.

checkstyleTest — [Checkstyle](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.plugins.quality.Checkstyle.html)

*Depends on*: testClasses

Runs Checkstyle against the test Java source files.

checkstyle*SourceSet* — [Checkstyle](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.plugins.quality.Checkstyle.html)

*Depends on*: *sourceSet*Classes

Runs Checkstyle against the given source set’s Java source files.

[Dependencies added to other tasks](#1ksv4uv)

The Checkstyle plugin adds the following dependencies to tasks defined by the Java plugin.

check

*Depends on*: All Checkstyle tasks, including checkstyleMain and checkstyleTest.

[Project layout](#17dp8vu)

By default, the Checkstyle plugin expects configuration files to be placed in the root project, but this can be changed.

<root>  
└── config  
 └── checkstyle (1)  
 └── checkstyle.xml (2)  
 └── suppressions.xml

1. Checkstyle configuration files go here
2. Primary Checkstyle configuration file

[Dependency management](#3rdcrjn)

The Checkstyle plugin adds the following dependency configurations:

Table 1. Checkstyle plugin - dependency configurations

| **Name** | **Meaning** |
| --- | --- |
| checkstyle | The Checkstyle libraries to use |

[Configuration](#26in1rg)

See the [CheckstyleExtension](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.plugins.quality.CheckstyleExtension.html) class in the API documentation.

[Built-in variables](#44sinio)

The Checkstyle plugin defines a config\_loc property that can be used in Checkstyle configuration files to define paths to other configuration files like suppressions.xml.

[Example: Using the config\_loc property](#2jxsxqh)

**config/checkstyle/checkstyle.xml**

<module name="SuppressionFilter">  
 <property name="file" value="${config\_loc}/suppressions.xml"/>  
</module>

[Customizing the HTML report](#lnxbz9)

The HTML report generated by the [Checkstyle](http://docs.google.com/dsl/org.gradle.api.plugins.quality.Checkstyle.html) task can be customized using a XSLT stylesheet, for example to highlight specific errors or change its appearance:

[Example: Customizing the HTML report](#z337ya)

**build.gradle**

tasks.withType(Checkstyle) {  
 reports {  
 xml.enabled false  
 html.enabled true  
 html.stylesheet resources.text.fromFile('config/xsl/checkstyle-custom.xsl')  
 }  
}

[View a sample Checkstyle stylesheet.](https://github.com/checkstyle/contribution/tree/master/xsl)

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