

# overflow in css

The **overflow** property in CSS controls what happens when content inside an element is **too large for the container's box**. It determines whether that extra content is visible, hidden, clipped, or scrollable—giving you control over layout and user experience when dealing with variable content sizes<sup>[1] [2] [3] [4] [5]</sup>.

## Common Values for overflow

Value	Behavior
<b>visible</b> (default)	Content spills outside the box; nothing is clipped or hidden <sup>[2] [3] [4] [5] [6]</sup> .
<b>hidden</b>	Overflowing content is <b>clipped</b> and not visible (no scrolling) <sup>[2] [3] [4] [6]</sup> .
<b>scroll</b>	Always shows <b>scrollbars</b> for the box, even if all content fits <sup>[2] [4] [6]</sup> .
<b>auto</b>	Shows scrollbars <b>only when needed</b> (if content overflows) <sup>[2] [7] [4] [5] [6]</sup> .
<b>clip</b>	Content is simply cut off at the box edge, but no scrollbars appear <sup>[2] [3] [4]</sup> .

## Example Usage

```
.box {  
  width: 200px;  
  height: 100px;  
  overflow: auto; /* or visible, hidden, scroll, clip */  
}
```

## About overflow-x and overflow-y

You can control **horizontal** and **vertical** overflow separately with:

- **overflow-x**: controls left/right overflow<sup>[7] [8] [5]</sup>.
- **overflow-y**: controls top/bottom overflow<sup>[7] [8] [5]</sup>.

Example:

```
.box {  
  overflow-x: hidden; /* Hide horizontal overflow */  
  overflow-y: scroll; /* Scroll vertical overflow */  
}
```

## Important Notes

- **Only works** as intended when used on block-level or inline-block elements with a **specified width and/or height**<sup>[1] [5]</sup>.
- If you do **not** specify a height (or width), you usually won't see scrollbars or clipping because the container will just grow to fit all the content.

## Summary Table

Property	Description
overflow	Main shorthand for both axes
overflow-x	Handles left/right (horizontal)
overflow-y	Handles top/bottom (vertical)

## Summary

Use **overflow** to control whether and how content that is too large for its container should be displayed: visible, hidden, scrollable, or clipped<sup>[2] [3] [4] [5] [6]</sup>. This helps build tidy, usable layouts and prevents content spillover issues.



1. [https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/pr\\_pos\\_overflow.php](https://www.w3schools.com/cssref/pr_pos_overflow.php)
2. <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/overflow>
3. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/css/css-overflow/>
4. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/css/css-overflow-property/>
5. <https://www.freecodecamp.org/news/css-overflow-explained-with-examples/>
6. <https://www.developerupdates.com/blog/what-is-overflow-property-in-css-learn-with-example>
7. [https://www.w3schools.com/css/css\\_overflow.asp](https://www.w3schools.com/css/css_overflow.asp)
8. <https://webreference.com/css/properties/overflow/>