

# Files Gatsby Looks for in a Plugin

## What files does Gatsby look for in a plugin?

All files are optional unless specifically marked as required.

- **package.json** — [required] this can be an empty object (`{}`) for local plugins.
  - **name** is used to identify the plugin when it mutates Gatsby's GraphQL data structure
    - \* if **name** isn't set, the folder name for the plugin is used
  - **main** is the name of the file that will be loaded when your module is required by another application
    - \* if **main** isn't set, a default name of **index.js** will be used
    - \* if **main** isn't set, it is recommended (but not required) to create an empty `index.js` file with the contents `//no-op` (short for no-operation), as seen in this example plugin
  - **version** is used to manage the cache — if it changes, the cache is cleared
    - \* if **version** isn't set, an MD5 hash of the **gatsby-\*** file contents is used to invalidate the cache
    - \* omitting the **version** field is recommended for local plugins
  - **keywords** is used to make your plugin discoverable
    - \* plugins published on the npm registry should have **gatsby** and **gatsby-plugin** in the **keywords** field to be added to the Plugin Library
- **gatsby-browser.js** — usage details are in the browser API reference
- **gatsby-node.js** — usage details are in the Node API reference
- **gatsby-ssr.js** — usage details are in the SSR API reference