

# Making Backups of Rancher (Docker)

Unit 2.1.2



## Making Backups

Making a backup of Rancher when running as a container involves backing up the persistent data located at `/var/lib/rancher` inside of the container. Depending on how you started the container, this might be a Docker volume, or it might be a bind-mounted volume on the host.

When creating backups, use an identifier that includes both the date and the rancher version, like `rancher-data-backup-v2.3.4-2020-02-07.tar.gz`.

### Docker Volume

If the container is using a Docker volume, the process for making a backup is as follows:

1. Stop the container
2. Create a data container that uses the same volume
3. Launch a temporary container that extracts `/var/lib/rancher` to a local tarball
4. Start the container
5. Move the backup off of the host.

When making the backup, it's important to use `-p` with `tar` to maintain file and directory permissions.

### Bind-Mounted Volume

If the container is using a bind-mounted volume on the host, the process for making a backup is as follows:

1. Stop the container
2. Create a tarball from the bind-mount directory
3. Start the container
4. Move the backup off of the host.

As before, remember to use -p with tar to maintain file and directory permissions.

## References

Backing up Rancher (Docker) -

<https://rancher.com/docs/rancher/v2.x/en/backups/backups/single-node-backups/>