

[Updated October 26, 2024]

Download the Visual Studio build tools(**downloading the Visual Studio IDE package is not necessary**):

<https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads/?hl=en-US#build-tools-for-visual-studio-2022>

Download the **Build Tools for Visual Studio** from the official Microsoft website. During installation, select the **Desktop development with C++** workload. For most basic C++ development, the **Desktop development with C++** workload is *sufficient*, there is no need to download all the MSVC tools.

Download MinGW-w64 (for Windows) using Chocolatey

Ensure you have Chocolatey installed on your system before running the command. You can download and install Chocolatey from their official website: <https://chocolatey.org/>

To download MinGW using Chocolatey, you can use the following command in your terminal (either Command Prompt or PowerShell):

```
choco install mingw
```

This command will download and install the latest version of MinGW on your system.

After installation, you can verify the installation by opening a new terminal window and typing `gcc --version`. This should display the version of the GCC compiler installed with MinGW.

Running C++ in Visual Studio Code

- Search for "C/C++" and install both language and extension pack by Microsoft.
- Open a new file and save it with a `.cpp` extension (e.g., `main.cpp`).
- Search for and install the "Code Runner" extension (this will help run the c++ code).
- Right-click anywhere in your code and select "Run Code".