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CSS Layout - clear and clearfix

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The clear Property

The `clear` property specifies what elements can float beside the cleared element and on which side.

The `clear` property can have one of the following values:

- none - Allows floating elements on both sides. This is default
- left - No floating elements allowed on the left side
- right- No floating elements allowed on the right side
- both **-** No floating elements allowed on either the left or the right side
- inherit - The element inherits the clear value of its parent

The most common way to use the `clear` property is after you have used a `float` property on an element.

When clearing floats, you should match the clear to the float: If an element is floated to the left, then you should clear to the left. Your floated element will continue to float, but the cleared element will appear below it on the web page.

The following example clears the float to the left. Means that no floating elements are allowed on the left side (of the div):

Example

```
div {
  clear: left;
}
```

Try it Yourself »

The clearfix Hack

If an element is taller than the element containing it, and it is floated, it will "overflow" outside of its container:

Without Clearfix

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus imperdiet, nulla et dictum interdum...

With Clearfix

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus imperdiet, nulla et dictum interdum...

Then we can add `overflow: auto;` to the containing element to fix this problem:

Example

```
.clearfix {
  overflow: auto;
}
```

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The `overflow: auto` clearfix works well as long as you are able to keep control of your margins and padding (else you might see scrollbars). The **new, modern clearfix hack** however, is safer to use, and the following code is used for most webpages:

Example

```
.clearfix::after {
  content: "";
  clear: both;
  display: table;
}
```

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You will learn more about the `::after` pseudo-element in a later chapter.

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