Getting started

Material for MkDocs is a theme for [MkDocs](), a static site generator geared towards (technical) project documentation. If you're familiar with Python, you can install Material for MkDocs with `pip`, the Python package manager. If not, we recommend using `docker`.

Installation

with pip <small>recommended</small>

Material for MkDocs is published as a [Python package]() and can be installed with `pip`, ideally by using a [virtual environment](). Open up a terminal and install Material for MkDocs with:

Latest	9.x

```
pip install mkdocs-
material
```

```
pip install mkdocs-
material=="9.*" #
(1)!
```

1. Material for
   MkDocs uses
   [semantic
   versioning][1],
   which is why it's a
   good idea to limit
   upgrades to the
   current major
   version.

   This will make
   sure that you don't
   accidentally
   [upgrade to the
   next major
   version], which
   may include
   breaking changes
   that silently
   corrupt your site.
   Additionally, you

can use `pip freeze` to create a lockfile, so builds are reproducible at all times:

```
pip freeze >
requirements.txt
```

This will automatically install compatible versions of all dependencies: [MkDocs](), [Markdown](), [Pygments]() and [Python Markdown Extensions](). Material for MkDocs always strives to support the latest versions, so there's no need to install those packages separately.

Now, the lockfile can be used for installation:

```
pip install -r
requirements.txt
```

Tip: rior experience with Python, we recommend reading [Using Python's pip to Manage Your Projects' Dependencies](), which is a really good introduction on the mechanics of Python package management and helps you troubleshoot if you run into errors.

with docker

The official [Docker image]() is a great way to get up and running in a few minutes, as it comes with all dependencies pre-installed. Open up a terminal and pull the image with:

Latest **9.x**

```
docker
pull
squidfunk/
mkdocs-
material
```

```
docker
pull
squidfunk/
mkdocs-
material:9
```

xecutable is provided as an entry point and `serve` is the default command. If you're not Docker don't worry, we have you covered in the following sections.

plugins are bundled with the Docker image:

- ninify-plugin

- [mkdocs-redirects]()

> **How to add plugins to the Docker image?**
>
> Material for MkDocs only bundles selected plugins in order to keep the size of the official image small. If the plugin you want to use is not included, create a new `Dockerfile` and extend the official Docker image:
>
> ```
> FROM squidfunk/mkdocs-material
> RUN pip install ...
> ```
>
> Next, you can build the image with the following command:
>
> ```
> docker build -t squidfunk/mkdocs-material .
> ```
>
> The new image can be used exactly like the official image.

> **:material-apple: Apple Silicon (M1) and :fontawesome-brands-raspberry-pi: Raspberry Pi**
>
> The official Docker image is only available for `linux/amd64`. We recommend the third-party image by @afritzler if you want to run Material for MkDocs via Docker on `arm64` or `armv7`, as it is automatically built on every release:
>
> ```
> docker pull ghcr.io/afritzler/mkdocs-material
> ```

with git

Material for MkDocs can be directly used from GitHub by cloning the repository into a subfolder of your project root which might be useful if you want to use the very latest version:

```
git clone https://github.com/squidfunk/mkdocs-material.git
```

The theme will reside in the folder `mkdocs-material/material`. After cloning from `git`, you must install all required dependencies with:

```
pip install -e mkdocs-material
```

1. Note that improvements of existing features are sometimes released as patch releases, like for example improved rendering of content tabs, as they're not considered to be new features. ◼

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