



# 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](#) recommended

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](#)<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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

**Tip:** Prior 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
```

executable is provided as an entry point and `serve` is the default command. If you're not

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

Docker don't worry, we have you covered in the following sections.

plugins are bundled with the Docker image:

[minify-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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