# 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:

```
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

This will make

version.

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 **Tip**: requirements.txt 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	xecutable is provided as an entry point and serve is the default command. If you're not
docker	Docker don't worry, we have you covered in the following sections.
pull squidfunk/ mkdocs- material:9	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 <code>linux/amd64</code>. We recommend the third-party image by <code>@afritzler</code> if you want to run Material for MkDocs via Docker on <code>arm64</code> or <code>armv7</code>, 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.

Last update: January 4, 2023 08:06:36 Created: January 4, 2023 08:06:36

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