

# Flutter Setup on Windows Using Only VS Code (No Android Studio)

## PREREQUISITES

Before starting, make sure you have:

- ✓ **Flutter SDK (ZIP)** – Downloaded from [Flutter Install](#)
  - ✓ **Visual Studio Code** – Installed from [VS Code Install](#)
  - ✓ **Git for Windows** – Installed from [Github Install](#)
  - ✓ **Internet Connection** – For downloading packages
- (Optional) **Physical Android device** – Only if you want to test your app on real hardware

## Step 0: Verify Git Is Installed

Git **must** be installed **before** using flutter doctor or flutter create

### Check Git

Open PowerShell or Command Prompt

Run:

```
C:\Windows\System32>git --version  
git version 2.45.1.windows.1
```

If it says "**not recognized**", then:

### Install Git:

Go to <https://git-scm.com>

Download and run the installer

During installation:

- ✓ Leave all default settings as-is
- ✓ Ensure "**Add Git to PATH**" is selected

After installing Git, **restart your terminal**, then run: **git --version**

## Step 1: Download and Extract Flutter SDK

Go to: [Click me to install flutter](#)

Click **Download Flutter SDK (ZIP)**

Extract the ZIP to:

D:\ or C:\

After extraction, you should see: (I assume extracted to D:\)

D:\flutter\bin

## Step 2: Add Flutter to Windows PATH

This allows you to run Flutter from any terminal.

Click the **Windows Start button**

Search for:

edit environment variables

Click "**Edit the system environment variables**"

In the new window, click the **Environment Variables...** button

In **User variables**, find and select the variable named Path

Click **Edit**

Click **New**, then type:

**D:\flutter\bin**

Click **OK** on all open dialogs (probably three ok's I think)

✓ Done — now Flutter CLI is globally available.

## Step 3: Restart Terminal and Verify Flutter

Close all open VS Code, PowerShell, and Command Prompt windows

Open PowerShell

Run:

**flutter doctor**

If everything is correct, you'll see:

```
PS C:\Users\saip5> flutter doctor
Doctor summary (to see all details, run flutter doctor -v):
[✓] Flutter (Channel stable, 3.32.8, on Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.4652], locale en-IN)
[✓] Windows Version (11 Home Single Language 64-bit, 24H2, 2009)
[X] Android toolchain - develop for Android devices
    X Unable to locate Android SDK.
      Install Android Studio from: https://developer.android.com/studio/index.html
      On first launch it will assist you in installing the Android SDK components.
      (or visit https://flutter.dev/to/windows-android-setup for detailed instructions).
      If the Android SDK has been installed to a custom location, please use
      'flutter config --android-sdk' to update to that location.

[✓] Chrome - develop for the web
[X] Visual Studio - develop Windows apps
    X Visual Studio not installed; this is necessary to develop Windows apps.
      Download at https://visualstudio.microsoft.com/downloads/.
      Please install the "Desktop development with C++" workload, including all of its default components
[!] Android Studio (not installed)
[✓] VS Code (version 1.102.2)
[✓] Connected device (3 available)
[✓] Network resources

! Doctor found issues in 3 categories.
PS C:\Users\saip5>
```

Even if it warns about missing Android SDK — you're fine without it.

## Step 4: Install Visual Studio Code

Go to: <https://code.visualstudio.com>

Download and install VS Code

During install:

✓ Check “Add to PATH”

✓ Check “Open with Code” in right-click menu

## Step 5: Install Flutter and Dart Extensions in VS Code

Open VS Code

Press **Ctrl + Shift + X** to open the Extensions tab

Search for **flutter**

Click **Install**

Dart will install automatically as a dependency

✓ Now VS Code understands Flutter and Dart syntax, formatting, debugging, etc.

## Step 6: (Optional) Set Flutter SDK Path in VS Code

If VS Code doesn't detect your SDK:

Press **Ctrl + Shift + P**

Search:

**Preferences: Open User Settings (JSON)**

Click on **Preferences: Open User Settings (JSON)**

Add this line inside the {}:

**"dart.flutterSdkPath": "D:\\flutter"**

It looks like:



The screenshot shows the VS Code settings.json file. The file is located at C:\Users> saip5 > AppData > Roaming > Code > User > {} settings.json > ... The file contains a JSON object with various settings. The setting "dart.flutterSdkPath" is highlighted with a red circle and a red arrow pointing to it. The value for this setting is "D:\\flutter".

```
1 {
2   "workbench.colorTheme": "Default Dark Modern",
3   "redhat.telemetry.enabled": true,
4   "workbench.editor.enablePreview": false,
5   "editor.largeFileOptimizations": false,
6   "python.defaultInterpreterPath": "C:\\ProgramData\\anaconda3\\python.exe",
7   "explorer.confirmDragAndDrop": false,
8   "accessibility.signals.terminalBell": {
9     "sound": "on"
10  },
11  "terminal.integrated.enableVisualBell": true,
12  "git.openRepositoryInParentFolders": "never",
13  "liveServer.settings.donotShowInfoMsg": true,
14  "liveServer.settings.donotVerifyTags": true,
15  "workbench.editor.empty.hint": "hidden",
16  "github.copilot.nextEditSuggestions.enabled": true,
17  "dart.flutterSdkPath": "D:\\flutter"
18 }
19
```

✓ Save and restart VS Code

## Step 7: Create a New Flutter Project

Press **Ctrl + Shift + P** in VS Code

Run:

**Flutter: New Project**

Choose:

**Flutter Application**

Select a location like:

**D:\\FlutterApps**

Name the project (e.g., my\_app)

Wait for project creation and dependency installation

When it opens, you'll see:

```
lib/
└── main.dart
pubspec.yaml
```

## Step 8: run the app