

# Importing Products with Inheritance Models

When working with inheritance models, preparing your spreadsheet accurately ensures that your products set up in Salsify with the correct associations and inheritance. If you have your data ready, read on. This article will walk you through a step-by-step method in preparing an import spreadsheet for products utilizing inheritance models.

If you don't have product data ready, [start here](#) to learn more about product identifiers, data types and deciding what information to store in Salsify and how.

For your first import, you'll upload via csv or Excel spreadsheet, but there are lots of ways to bring your product content into Salsify. We connect via a variety of mechanisms including CSV and Excel files, via FTP, Dropbox, Box, and even using our own backend API.

## Preparing Your Import Spreadsheet

| A | B          | C   | D         | E   | F          | G           | H       | I          | J              | K            |  |           |
|---|------------|---|-----------|---|------------|-------------|---------|------------|----------------|--------------|--|-----------|
| 1 | ID         | Name                                      | parent_id | salsify.data_inheritance_hierarchy_level_id | Style      | Style Image | Brand   | Taxonomy   | Product Status | Selling Unit | eCommerce Description  | Bullet Po |
| 2 | MM283      | Defender Headphones                       |           | MM283                                       | Style      |             | Stealth | Headphones |                |              | Training in silence can get exhausting, so our new Defender Headphones help keep you going on and off the job. |           |
| 3 | coral-pink | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral          |           |   | Color      |             |         |            |                |              |  | Top note  |
| 4 | 701028133  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Kids)   |           |   | coral-pink | Size        |         |            |                |              |  |           |
| 5 | 701028134  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Adults) |           |   | coral-pink | Size        |         |            |                |              |  |           |
| 6 | mint-green | Defender Headphones - Mint Green          |           |   | MM283      | Color       |         |            |                |              |  |           |
| 7 | 701028135  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Kids)   |           |   | mint-green | Size        |         |            |                |              |  |           |
| 8 | 701028136  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Adults) |           |   | mint-green | Size        |         |            |                |              |  |           |

When preparing your import spreadsheet, it's important to know and understand your products' inheritance hierarchy. For our example, we're importing a new collection of headphones with two color variations, Coral Pink and Mint Green, and two sizes, Kids and Adults. The inheritance model we chose to implement for these types of products has Style as its top level, followed by Color then Size. Here's a visual representation of the hierarchy:



When working with inheritance models, we recommend organizing your products within the spreadsheet in a way that reflects the hierarchy. In our example, we've color-coded and organized the spreadsheet to make it easier to distinguish between products of each level of inheritance.

|   | A          | B   | C          | D   |
|---|------------|---|------------|---|
| 1 | ID         | Name                                      | parent_id  | salsify:data_inheritance_hierarchy_level_id |
| 2 | MM283      | Defender Headphones                       |            | Style                                       |
| 3 | coral-pink | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral          | MM283      | Color                                       |
| 4 | 701028133  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Kids)   | coral-pink | Size  |
| 5 | 701028134  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Adults) | coral-pink | Size  |
| 6 | mint-green | Defender Headphones - Mint Green          | MM283      | Color                                       |
| 7 | 701028135  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Kids)   | mint-green | Size  |
| 8 | 701028136  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Adults) | mint-green | Size  |
| • |            |   |            |   |

In order for Salsify to correctly identify and structure your products according to the right model, it looks at the information provided in the following columns:

1. The *ID* column contains the identification number or code used within your organization to distinguish between different product variations.
2. Your products' names. In our example, at every succeeding level within the model, we add new relevant information to the product's name.
3. The *Parent ID* refers to the ID of the product this level will be inheriting properties from. For instance, the Coral Pink Defender Headphones refer to Defender Headphones' ID.
4. The *salsify:data\_inheritance\_hierarchy\_level\_id* column tells Salsify which inheritance model to use and populate when importing these products. Note that prior to importing products, the inheritance model and its governance must already be set up. For more information on setting up an inheritance model, [click here](#).

## Spreadsheet Specifications

1. **File format:** .xlsx or .csv file with columns defining properties and rows defining separate products.
2. **One row per product:** Each product should only appear in your import file once. If you have duplicate entries, the import will still complete, but Salsify will process the first instance of the product and ignore all others.
3. **First Tab Only:** Your import data on the first tab of your workbook - Salsify will ignore information on other tabs of your workbook, so be sure to move any data you want to import to the first tab position.
4. **A single header row:** Headers must be in row 1 of your spreadsheet, with a header for each column of information you're importing. Header names don't have to be the exact names you want to use in Salsify. You can add the names you want to use during the mapping process.
5. **Each column has a header:** Be sure that each column has a header and no stray information exists in other columns. If a row contains information that doesn't have a header, Salsify will skip processing all the information for that row and report an error.
6. **Ensure that every product has an ID and Name** associated with it.

Other formatting notes:

- **Fill in property values on the level they vary by** to prevent the values from being read as overridden values. In the following example, all variations of the Defender Headphones have the same

manufacturer. Therefore, the Manufacturer property value is only filled on the Defender Headphone's row. However, the mid-level products vary by color and have different primary images.

| A          | B   | AM             | AN                 | AO         |
|------------|---|----------------|--------------------|------------|
| ID         | Name                                      | Manufacturer   | Primary Image Link | Color      |
| MM283      | Defender Headphones                       | PXM Industries |                    |            |
| coral-pink | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral          |                |                    | Coral Pink |
| 701028133  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Kids)   |                |                    |            |
| 701028134  | Defender Headphones - Pink Coral (Adults) |                |                    |            |
| mint-green | Defender Headphones - Mint Green          |                |                    | Mint Green |
| 701028135  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Kids)   |                |                    |            |
| 701028136  | Defender Headphones - Mint Green (Adults) |                |                    |            |

- **Multiple values for the same property (like bullet points or keywords) can be added either by creating multiple columns with the same header**, or by adding a separator between values in the same column. Just be sure that your separator doesn't appear in the data you're adding. Comma is the most common separator, however when you import, you can set it to whatever you used in your spreadsheet.
- **Hierarchical values can be added through import for picklist/category properties**. Format with the parent and variant levels in the same cell with a separator between them. For example, if you were adding a category called Carry-on inside the Luggage category, you would represent it in the spreadsheet as Luggage>Carry-on and the separator is >. You can use any character as the separator - just be sure it doesn't appear in any of your values.
- **Hidden or filtered columns or rows in your import sheet will still be imported to Salsify**. If you don't want to make changes to the hidden information, remove it from your sheet before uploading, or you can set your import to ignore whole columns of your spreadsheet.

Now, it's time to upload your spreadsheet and products into Salsify, [click here](#) for the next steps.