

■ Git Folder Visibility & .gitkeep Usage Guide

This guide explains why some folders do not appear on GitHub when they are empty, and how to use `.gitkeep`` files to make them visible for better repository structure.

1■■ Why Folders Don't Appear on GitHub

Git only tracks files, not directories. If a folder is empty, it won't be included in your commits or appear on GitHub. This is by design — Git's version control system is file-based, not folder-based.

2■■ What is a `.gitkeep`` File?

A `.gitkeep`` file is an empty placeholder file commonly used to force Git to include otherwise empty directories in the repository. It has no special meaning to Git, but it's a community convention recognized across most projects.

3■■ How to Add `.gitkeep`` Files

- 1 1. Open your terminal or Git Bash in the root directory of your project.
- 2 2. Create a `.gitkeep`` file inside each empty folder using the following commands:
- 3 `touch backend/.gitkeep`
- 4 `touch frontend/.gitkeep`
- 5 `touch mobile/.gitkeep`
- 6 `touch db_backups/.gitkeep`
- 7 3. Stage and commit your changes:
- 8 `git add .`
- 9 `git commit -m 'Added .gitkeep files to preserve folder structure'`
- 10 4. Push your updates to GitHub:
- 11 `git push`

4■■ When to Remove `.gitkeep``

Once a folder contains actual project files (e.g., Python scripts, HTML files, or database dumps), you can safely delete the `.gitkeep`` file. It only serves as a temporary placeholder.

■ Summary

- Empty folders don't appear on GitHub by default.
- Add `.gitkeep`` to preserve directory structure.
- Commit and push changes to update GitHub.
- Remove `.gitkeep`` when real files are added.

Following this ensures your repository structure stays clear and consistent — especially important for multi-module projects like KidsGoods (backend, frontend, mobile, etc.).