



If you already have the .tar.gz on another instance

Yes, you can copy it using scp, then extract it into /var/lib/jenkins.



STEP 1 — Copy backup to new Jenkins server

From your **main instance**:

```
scp -i <key.pem> /path/to/jenkins-backup-2026-02-10-11-46.tar.gz ec2-user@<new-server-ip>:/tmp/
```

Check on new server:

```
ls /tmp/
```

You should see the tar file.



STEP 2 — Stop Jenkins (VERY IMPORTANT)

```
sudo systemctl stop jenkins
```



STEP 3 — Clear old Jenkins data

```
sudo rm -rf /var/lib/jenkins/*
```



STEP 4 — Extract into Jenkins home

Because your tar has a top folder:

```
sudo tar -xzf /tmp/jenkins-backup-2026-02-10-11-46.tar.gz -C /var/lib/jenkins --strip-components=1
```

👉 Yes — extracting into /var/lib/jenkins is correct.

★ STEP 5 — Fix permissions (most people forget this)

```
sudo chown -R jenkins:jenkins /var/lib/jenkins
```

If you skip this, Jenkins may:

- ask for setup again
- look empty
- fail login

★ STEP 6 — Start Jenkins

```
sudo systemctl start jenkins
```

Open:

<http://<jenkins-ip>:8080>

Login with old user.

Quick answer to your question

“Could I just scp the tar file and extract in /var/lib?”

✓ YES — that is a **standard full Jenkins restore**.

Just remember:

Stop Jenkins → Extract → chown → Start Jenkins

Small security tip (since you mentioned copying keys)

You **do NOT** need to copy the private key to another instance permanently.

Safer options:

- Use the key locally from your laptop
- Or use SSH agent forwarding

But for quick lab work, copying temporarily is fine — just delete it after.