

SQL CHECK Constraint

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The **CHECK** constraint is used to limit the value range that can be placed in a column.

If you define a **CHECK** constraint on a column it will allow only certain values for this column.

If you define a **CHECK** constraint on a table it can limit the values in certain columns based on values in other columns in the row.

SQL CHECK on CREATE TABLE

The following SQL creates a **CHECK** constraint on the "Age" column when the "Persons" table is created. The **CHECK** constraint ensures that the age of a person must be 18, or older:

MySQL:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    CHECK (Age>=18)  
);
```

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int CHECK (Age>=18)  
);
```

To allow naming of a **CHECK** constraint, and for defining a **CHECK** constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
CREATE TABLE Persons (  
    ID int NOT NULL,  
    LastName varchar(255) NOT NULL,  
    FirstName varchar(255),  
    Age int,  
    City varchar(255),  
    CONSTRAINT CHK_Person CHECK (Age>=18 AND City='Sandnes')  
);
```

SQL CHECK on ALTER TABLE

To create a **CHECK** constraint on the "Age" column when the table is already created, use the following SQL:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons
```

```
ADD CHECK (Age>=18);
```

To allow naming of a **CHECK** constraint, and for defining a **CHECK** constraint on multiple columns, use the following SQL syntax:

MySQL / SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
ADD CONSTRAINT CHK_PersonAge CHECK (Age>=18 AND City='Sandnes');
```

DROP a CHECK Constraint

To drop a **CHECK** constraint, use the following SQL:

SQL Server / Oracle / MS Access:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CONSTRAINT CHK_PersonAge;
```

MySQL:

```
ALTER TABLE Persons  
DROP CHECK CHK_PersonAge;
```