

HOW TO Make the Sims 4 Fun Again

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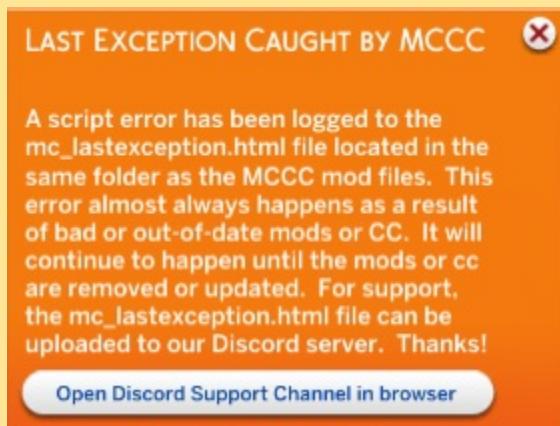
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Warnings

Before you dive into reinventing your *Sims 4* experience, please consider the following advisories:

Save Your Game

You will forget. Beginners forget, experts forget, everyone forgets. After hours of carefully crafting a massive rec center with 4 stories or barely surviving a meteor attack, your game will crash and all of that time spent progressing your game will be gone. Save often. Save under multiple files if you have to. Mods will crash your game. Build mode will crash your game. Electricity will go out. You will throw your computer at the wall if your game crashes. At least there will be no more Sims rage.



Everything is totally fine! (It's definitely not)

Be Prepared for Bugs

Whether you play *The Sims 4* with or without mods, bugs are inevitable. They are essentially built into the game. Sims will forget how to walk or do push ups with an infant in their hands. Bugs are a part of the game, so be prepared to have things go wrong.

You May Care Too Much

Once you make a Sim it is easy to become connected to them. When you give your Sim a tragic backstory, ten lovers, and a nuisance neighbor who becomes a mortal enemy, it is easy to forget that it's just a game. Don't be surprised if you find yourself plotting revenge mid-shower.

Overview

This instruction manual was designed to help you reinvent the way you play *The Sims 4*. Whether you are brand new to the game or a seasoned veteran who is stuck in a rut with a family of loser Sims, we intend to help you discover the fun of playing *The Sims*. This manual will cover wide range of topics such as:

- Gameplay Styles: Legacy challenges and reality TV show drama
- Building Techniques: Cozy starter homes and large mansions with secret rooms
- Goal-Setting: Fulfilling Sims aspirations and completing collections
- Mods and Custom Content: Adding modern furniture, wacky gameplay, and crazy costumes
- Relationships: Creating romance and mortal enemies that leads to WooHoo related drama
- Creative Storytelling: Leading Sims down unique life paths and introducing them to elaborate plot twists
- Career Paths and Social Chaos: Criminal masterminds and famous actors with family tragedies

Accessibility

This How-To manual is designed to be helpful for anyone who can:

- Read (not sure how you got this far if you can't)
- Play the *The Sims 4*(base game, modded, or with extra packs)
- Use in-game tools like Build Mode, Create-A-Sim(CAS), and the Gallery
- Get creative and explore new ideas
- Handle the death of Sims without crying (optional, but highly recommended)

Introduction

Every Sims player has felt that dreadful moment when *The Sims 4* starts to feel monotonous. You start a fresh game with a Sim you feel connected to with a cute outfit and big dreams. You build them a starter house that has awful utilities. Maybe you even get through a career level or two. But eventually you get stuck in a time loop: sleep, work, eat, shower, woohoo (if you're lucky), and repeat. Your Sim gets rich too quickly and your relationships feel too easy. You cook the same food, go to the same places, and see the same Sims in your neighborhood. You eventually get to the point where you don't even care when your house catches on fire.



Another rich Sim with nothing to do...

Just because *The Sims 4* gives you the tools to play freely, doesn't mean it always feels fun. *The Sims 4* is a sandbox game that has infinite possibilities and tons of freedom. However, just like other sandbox games, this freedom can be both a blessing and a curse. Without any sort of direction, we tend to fall into old habits like having 8 kids and quitting when they get annoying or spending hours building a mansion just to quit the game when our Sim can't reach the shower. When we fall into the same patterns over and over, it is easy to get bored of the game. That's where this guide comes in.

This guide is designed to help players rediscover their love for the game and help them think outside the box when playing. You don't have to be a professional builder, have completed 30

generations, and you definitely don't need to buy all the extra packs to get something out of this. You just need an open mind when experimenting with new Sims, embracing inevitable disasters, and letting *The Sims 4* be the truly weird game that it is.

The most important part of *The Sims 4* is learning how to play it your way. You need to find what aspects of the game keep you engaged the most. This manual is a celebration of the game's craziness, its quirks, its bugs(for which there are many), and its heartfelt moments. You need a fresh perspective and maybe a little bit of structured mania.

Let us help you reinvent the way you play.

Written by a long-time Sims player who once accidentally killed Father Winter, burnt down a house with a fire toilet, and still can't seem to build a house without adding too many windows. This manual is made with years experience in drama-filled gameplay, forgotten cow plants, and deep emotional attachments to Sims. You and your Sims are in good hands(unless you have a super buggy infant).

What You'll Need

Here's what to have on hand before diving into this manual:

Intangible Tools

- **Time.** You'll want at least 3–12 hours carved out of your day to seriously reboot your Sims gameplay. Whether you set this time aside on purpose or not there is a good chance you will be playing until 3 am if you're not careful(seriously this can happen in a blink of an eye).
- **Knowledge of *The Sims 4*.** A brief knowledge of how to play the Sims would be ideal. Although there will be some helpful tips, this guide does not go through how to play the game. Instead we will teach you how to enhance it.
- **Imagination.** *The Sims 4* is your sandbox game. This guide will just help you build weirder and more elaborate castles in it.
- **Patience.** Things will break. The game will lag. Sims will get stuck in walls. Babies will teleport outside. *The Sims* is a glitchy game, so have patience and embrace it.
- **God Complex.** This comes with the game itself. You have power over your Sims. Do whatever you want.

Hardware Tools

- **A Computer or Console.** Ideally you need a computer that can run *The Sims 4* without sounding like it's about to take off(I haven't found one yet but let me know if you do). PC and Mac have more access to customization options, but Xbox and PlayStation players can still have a great time (mods are not available, but who needs them anyway).
- **A Decent Internet Connection.** For downloading packs, updates, custom content, and accessing the Gallery. If you can live without these things, I applaud you as you can play without any internet connection.

- **Headphones(Optional).** This is not necessary, but if you are easily embarrassed by weird Simlish or strange woohoo sounds then headphones are highly recommended.

Software Tools

- **The Sims 4 Base Game.** Available for download on the EA App(Windows), Origin(Mac), Steam, or console stores. The base game is currently free to play.
- **Expansion Packs, Game Packs, Stuff Packs, and Kits (Optional).** These can expand your gameplay dramatically and were specifically built by the Sims Team for *The Sims 4*. You don't need any extra packs to have a good time, however, if you believe they are worth the money then have at it!
- **Mods and Custom Content (Optional).** Custom Content(CC) and mods can drastically change the game(PC and Mac only). We'll walk you through how to use them safely and efficiently.

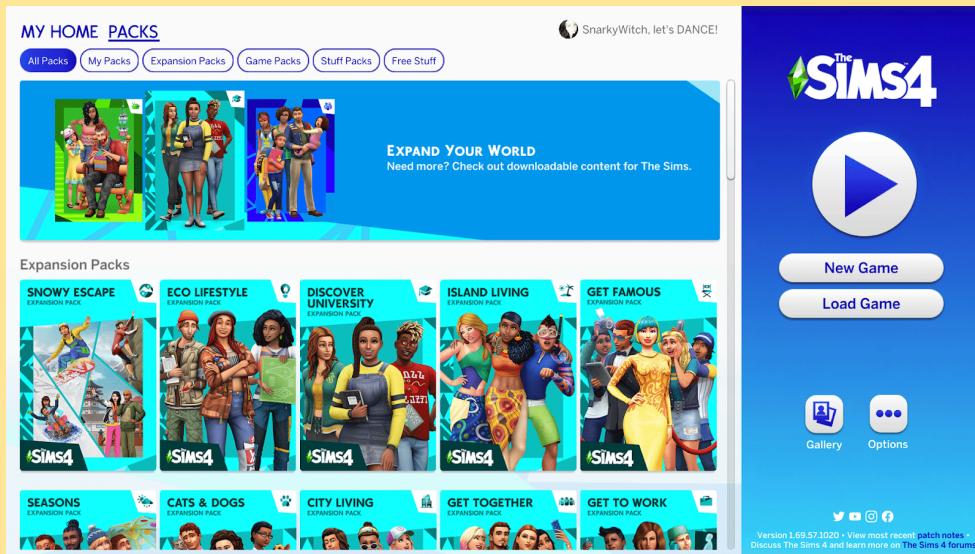


Use CC to turn your ugly Sim into a fashion icon!

Getting Started

Looks like you're ready to jump in and fix your stale Sims 4 gameplay! Glad to see that you've finally accepted that buying a new Sims pack won't fill the boredom shaped hole in your heart. There is some good news: the Sims is still fun. We just need to figure out what makes it fun for you.

In order to reimagine the way you play, we need a game plan.



The calm before the chaos. Think about your next Sim victim.

Step 1: Figure out what you're getting into

Starting a new save file in *The Sims 4* is a huge undertaking. Between life stages, career levels, building tools, and millions of unofficial mods, the game can get stressful really quickly if you try to become a “master” at it. So we advise you don’t try to master it, just try to play it.

Step 2: Decide what to do first

Every player has a different play-style. You might be here because you love building, but hate the gameplay aspect. Or maybe you spend 20 hours in CAS trying to perfect a Sim you will never play with. Or maybe you keep forgetting to save and lose 4 hours of progress on your large-scale builds (in which case we will teach you about autosave mods).

What Not to Do First

- Don't start a new save with no clear goals(this leads to that endless loop)
- Don't download hundreds of mods before learning how to install one or knowing what kind of mods you like
- Don't expect to always be good at the game. We are trying to learn to play for fun, not how to play "better".

Whether you're starting your Sims journey with a new save file or trying to save your ancient save file from being too rich and boring, this manual will help you freely play in that sandbox again.

Playing a Legacy Challenge

What is a Legacy Challenge?

A Legacy Challenge is intended to be a long-term style of gameplay where you start with one Sim on an empty lot and try to build a thriving family without using any cheats (although we won't tell).

The original challenge has more formal rules, but like everything in *The Sims 4*, it's very flexible. Players can choose to create their own legacy challenge or follow the many popular ones online. Whether you want to focus on drama, storytelling, or building there are so many ways to create chaos while raising Sims across 10 generations.

Step 1: Make a Founder

Your founder Sim sets the tone for the rest of your legacy, so make them interesting. They can be an evil genius or a flirty kleptomaniac. Choose something out of the ordinary that makes you excited to play.

Tips for Designing a Founder:

- Give them interesting flaws
- Choose traits that don't necessarily go together
- Pick an aspiration you don't play often
- Choose funky outfits or new CC

Step 2: Move Them to an Empty Lot

The traditional legacy challenge rules require a 50x50 lot bulldozed down to nothing(except some terrain paint dirt). You typically start with 1800 Simoleons, and if you are really hardcore you can start with 0.

Step 3: Survive

This is where things get dicey. Without utilities your Sim will likely stink, pee themselves, fall asleep in parks, and maybe even start to dislike you. Stay strong because this is the start of many grand generations to come.

Some Goals for the First Week:

- Get a job or scavenge for money(fishing, dumpster diving, painting, etc.)

- Meet your neighbors
- Start by building a tiny house(and we mean tiny)

Step 4: Start a Family

Once your Sim has something to call home(hopefully a home with a toilet), it's time to think about the next generation. Consider creating romantic relationships and make sure to add some drama! Fall in love with your enemy or woohoo with the Grim Reaper. Whatever your Sims' heart desires.

Step 5: Pick an Heir to your Legacy

The best part of a Legacy Challenge is that each generation gives you a chance to start something new or rekindle something old. Every generation gives you a chance to pick a new heir, choose weird traits, and change the way you play the game.

Don't Get Caught in a Legacy Loop

- **Don't Let It Get Boring:** Once you're a few generations in, it can start to feel repetitive. Try introducing new drama by moving cities, adding quirky mods, or even merge new challenges with your legacy.
- **Backup Your Save:** Nothing is worse than losing 10 generations of heartfelt memories to one glitch.
- **Avoid Burnout:** Try to play in short bursts. Legacy burnout is real and it can happen to you.

Frequently Asked Questions

How Do I Fix a Game That Keeps Crashing or Freezing?

First of all, take a deep breath. Typically, a simple game restart will fix any major issues. Next we need to check the usual laggy suspects: mods that are out-dated, broken CC(custom content), or an overloaded save file. Try to clear your cache, remove mods temporarily, or start the game in "safe mode". If that doesn't work for you, you may need to repair the game through the EA app(PC). If all else fails, you may need to uninstall and reinstall The Sims 4. Don't worry your saves can usually be backed up, but always save backup files just in case!

My Sims Won't Do What I Tell Them!

Sims can be stubborn sometimes, but don't worry your Sims are not trying to take over your computer. First, check if there's something blocking their actions. It is possible that there is an object in the way of the action. The Sims can be very dramatic, so try canceling the designated action and trying the command again. If there is nothing in the way, double check your Sim's needs. If they are too tired or hungry, they might be too cranky to perform the action. If they continue to be stubborn, you can always use cheats to reset them or fix their needs quickly.

Do I Need Mods to Make the Game More Fun?

Not at all! Mods are meant to enhance your game, they are not necessary to the game. Mods can add more variety to your gameplay and add to the long list of careers, traits, and interactions that are already in *The Sims 4*. Always be careful about compatibility and make sure to save and back up your files often. Although mods are a great way to try something new, never feel like you need them. There are plenty of ways to have fun without them!

Why Are My Relationships Always Going Wrong?

Now I hope you are asking this question about the Sims and not your personal life because this manual cannot help you there. Sims relationships can go wrong for a variety of reasons like bad timing, jealousy, bad decisions, and annoying kids. You always want to carefully manage your Sims interactions by watching out for jealousy and fulfilling each other's needs. Now if a thriving relationship is too boring for you, try implementing some drama.

How Do I Unlock All the Career Paths?

There is no need to unlock career paths manually. Some career paths require you to level up, achieve a certain level of skills, or complete aspirations before you can play them. If you are desperate to play them you can also use cheats to unlock them faster, but we think it's more

fun to gradually earn them by playing the game. Try mixing up careers (become an astronaut by day and a painter by night) or switch things up by making your Sim switch careers halfway through their life!

Troubleshooting

So something weird happened in your game. The good news is that's completely normal. Here's a list of common problems and what to do when things just aren't working right.



It's not a bug, it's a feature! All babies look like that. (It's a bug, babies don't look like that)

My Game Won't Stop Loading

Try:

- Exit your game and relaunch(Ctrl+Alt+Del may be your best bet)
- Clear your game cache
- If you recently added mods, try removing them and try again
- Worst case scenario, repair the game through the EA app

DO NOT:

- Waste your time waiting for it to load. You will be there until you die.

My Sim Is Stuck Repeating the Same Action

Try:

- Manually cancelling the action
- Open the cheat bar(Ctrl+Shift+C) and type 'resetSim Firstname Lastname) to reset the Sim
- If you are still stuck, try moving them out of the household and back in(go to Manage Worlds)

DO NOT:

- Try to reason with them like a real person. They can't hear you. At least I hope not.

My Custom Content Won't Show Up

Try:

- Go to game settings and check that CC is enabled(make sure to restart your game)
- Double check that your .package file is in the Mods folder
- Unzip files if they are compressed

DO NOT:

- Panic before looking at the instructions from the CC creator. Every creator has different files to download!

My Beloved Sim Caught Fire and Died

Try:

- Congratulations! This is a classic Sims experience
- You can undo this by exiting your game without saving(hopefully you saved before the fire)
- You can embrace the fire and maybe start a few more!

DO NOT:

- Panic and forget to put out the fire
- Forget to install smoke detectors(not that the Sim firefighters are much help anyway)

Glossary

CC (Custom Content)

User-created furniture, hair, eyes, clothing, and gameplay that are great ways to expand your game! CC is the best way to give those ugly Sims a major glow up. It is not available on console.

CAS (Create-a-Sim)

This is the birthplace of all Sims! You are able to customize noses, fingernails, favorite color, and whether they walk normally or like a stalker.

Expansion Pack (EP)

These are add-ons created by *The Sims 4* team. They give you access to new worlds, careers, and gameplay. If you are looking for a way to empty your wallet, EPs are your go to!

Game Pack (GP)

These are smaller than expansion packs, and bigger than stuff packs. GPs offer new features like vampires, dogs, or dream jobs you can never do in real life.



A drawing! Technically...

Mods

Mods are short for modifications. Mods change/add to the Sims game code which allows you to tweak gameplay, fix bugs, or turn your Sim into a fire-breathing mermaid. Always use caution as some mods fix EA's mistakes and some mods make things even worse somehow.

Moodlet

An emotional flag that tells you how your Sim feels and why. If your Sim is sleepy, just woohooed, or was traumatized by a ghost of a long lost relative, you get moodlets for each. Moodlets each have points that are added up to decide what your Sims overall mood is.

Plumbob

That floating green diamond above your Sim's head. This means they're the active Sim(only Sims in your households have this. If it's red, then you're doing an awful job at keeping them happy.

Simoleons (\$)

This is the in-game currency. You earn them by working, painting, gardening or typing in "motherlode" in the cheat bar. No judgment here. We have all done it.

Sul Sul

A common Simlish greeting. It means "hi," "bye," or really whatever greeting you like.

Additional Resources

While this manual is designed to help you rediscover your love for The Sims 4, there is so much knowledge that can be accessed online. Here are some resources that we recommend to dive deeper, stay up to date, or get inspired when you're stuck in a rut.

Official Resources

- [The Sims 4 Website](#) is a great way to keep up with announcements, patch notes, new packs, and more.
- [EA Help](#) for when your game crashes after installing a mod that makes cats 8ft tall.

Community Forums

- [The Sims Forums](#) are an amazing place to ask questions, join challenges, and look at legacy story threads.
- [Reddit \(r/thesims\)](#) has a buzzing community of Simmers that share builds, rant, and make weird confessions



When in doubt, someone online has screamed about this.

Modding & Custom Content

- [The Sims Resource](#) is a massive library with CC furniture, makeup, clothing, and more. This is free unless you want to add an optional subscription for faster downloads.
- [Nexus Mods](#) is the place for experimental mods. Always read the instructions carefully so you know what you're downloading.