

Implicit conversions are those conversions that occur without specifying either the CAST or CONVERT function. Explicit conversions are those conversions that require the CAST or CONVERT function to be specified. The following illustration shows all explicit and implicit data type conversions that are allowed for SQL Server system-supplied data types.

	To:																															
From:	binary	varbinary	char	varchar	nchar	nvarchar	datetime	smalldatetime	date	time	datetimeoffset	datetime2	decimal	numeric	float	real	bigint	int(INT4)	smallint(INT2)	tinyint(INT1)	money	smallmoney	bit	timestamp	uniqueidentifier	image	ntext	text	sql_variant	xml	CLR UDT	hierarchyid
binary																															0	
varbinary																																
char	0	0		O	Ŏ	Ŏ		Ŏ					Ŏ				Ŏ	Ŏ	Ö	Ŏ	O	Ŏ	O		0	Ŏ		Ŏ	O		0	Ŏ
varchar																								•								
nchar	0	0				O												O	O					Ö								
nvarchar																															0	
datetime																					0		0	•								
smalldatetime																																
date																																
time																																
datetimeoffset																																
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numeric													*	*																		
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tinyint(INT1)																																
money																																
smallmoney																																
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timestamp																																
uniqueidentifier																																
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Key:

- **Explicit conversion**
- Implicit conversion
- Conversion not allowed
- * Requires explicit CAST to prevent the loss of precision or scale that might occur in an implicit conversion.
- Implicit conversions between xml data types are supported only if the source or target is untyped xml. Otherwise, the conversion must be explicit