

# DotEnv Environment Files

DotEnv environment files, denoted by the ".env" file extension, are integral to configuring a WordPress website. They contain a set of key-value pairs that specify various configurations, such as database connection details, that the website will use. In the context of the Juicebox WordPress Boilerplate, all database connection details, including the database name, username, password, and host, are stored within the .env file.

During local development, you will need to input your local database connection details into the .env file. However, it is essential to note that this file should not be committed to the repository as it is (git)ignored. This ensures that sensitive data, such as your database login credentials, are not inadvertently made public.

You can keep sensitive data and other configurations separate from the codebase by utilising environment files, making it easier to manage your website's settings across different environments, such as development, staging, and production. Additionally, it enables you to use different configurations across different environments without having to modify your code.

File Name	Purpose
.env	The .env file includes environment variables to work on the website on your local machine. The file is gitignored and should not be committed to the repository. The file is created locally after running <code>composer install</code> or can be created manually. All new key-value pairs should be copied into the other environment files at the conclusion of developing the website.
.env.dev	Some repositories contain these files. The file can be duplicated (as .env) to give you a head start in setting up the website locally.
.env.staging	This file contains the key-value pairs for the site to work on the staging environment. On deployment through the CI/CD tool, the file is renamed <code>.env</code> .
.env.live	This file contains the key-value pairs for the site to work in the production environment. On deployment through the CI/CD tool, the file is renamed <code>.env</code> .
.env.template	This file key-value pairs are populated and the file is copied as <code>.env</code> by the installation script that runs after <code>composer install</code> .