

Database Backup & Restore Scripts

A small, cross-platform toolkit for **full logical backups** of a PostgreSQL database using the native tools (`pg_dump` / `psql`).
Works on **macOS/Linux** (Bash) and **Windows** (Batch + PowerShell). Supports **Docker auto-detection**, **optional gzip**, and **simple rotation**.

At a glance

- Scripts read ``.env`` in your current project directory to discover connection info.
- They **prefer Docker** if your PostgreSQL is running in a container; otherwise they use local client tools.
- If the selected DB container **doesn't include client tools**, the scripts run an **ephemeral `postgres:16` client** for you.
- Backups are **plain SQL** (`.sql`) and optionally **gzipped** (`.sql.gz`).
- File naming: `<database>_<suffix>.sql[.gz]` in a target **backup directory** (default `./backups`).

Repo layout (suggested)

...

project/

```
■■ .env
■■ backups/ # default output directory (created if missing)
■■ scripts/
■■ db/
■■ managedb.sh # macOS/Linux engine (auto-detects Docker/local/ephemeral)
■■ backupdb.sh # minimal backup wrapper (.sql)
■■ restoredb.sh # minimal restore wrapper (.sql)
■■ backupdbzip.sh # backup then gzip (.sql.gz)
■■ restoredbzip.sh # gunzip then restore
■■ backup_rotate.sh # timestamped .sql + prune
■■ backupdbzip_rotate.sh # timestamped .sql.gz + prune
■■ managedb.bat # Windows wrapper (calls managedb.ps1)
■■ managedb.ps1 # Windows engine
■■ backupdb.bat # minimal backup wrapper (.sql)
■■ restoredb.bat # minimal restore wrapper (.sql)
■■ backupdbzip.bat # backup then gzip (.sql.gz)
■■ restoredbzip.bat # gunzip then restore
■■ backup_rotate.bat # timestamped .sql + prune
■■ backupdbzip_rotate.bat # timestamped .sql.gz + prune
```

...

> The Windows pieces (`*.bat` wrappers + managedb.ps1``) mirror the functionality of the shell scripts.

``.env`` configuration

The scripts expect **one** of the following:

1) A single `DATABASE_URL` (recommended)

```
```env
DATABASE_URL="postgresql://PGUSER:PGPASSWORD@PGHOST:5432/PGDATABASE?schema=public"
```
```

The engine parses this URL and exports `PGHOST`, `PGPORT`, `PGUSER`, `PGPASSWORD`, `PGDATABASE`.

2) Or explicit `PG*` variables

```
```env
PGHOST=localhost
PGPORT=5432
PGUSER=postgres
PGPASSWORD=postgres
PGDATABASE=myapp
```
```

> The `.env` file is read **from your current working directory** (i.e., run commands from your `project/` folder so the scripts pick up the correct `.env`).

How the engine chooses where to run `pg_dump`/`psql`

1. **Running Postgres container?**

The engine scans `docker ps` for a container whose **name or image** includes "postgres" (or common variants), **preferring** the one that **publishes your `PGPORT`**.

2. **If that container has client tools** (`pg_dump`, `psql`) → use `docker exec`.

3. **If it does not** → run an **ephemeral `postgres:16` client** attached to that container's network (`--network container:<id>`) and connect to `127.0.0.1`.

4. **If no container fits**:

- If local `pg_dump` exists → use **local** client tools.

- Else → use an **ephemeral `postgres:16` client** to your host (macOS alias `host.docker.internal` is handled automatically).

Optional override: set `POSTGRES_CONTAINER=<container-name>` to force a specific container (helpful if multiple are running).

Script inventory & usage

macOS / Linux

> Make scripts executable once:

```
```bash
chmod +x ./scripts/db/*.sh
```
```

| Script | Purpose | Usage | Notes |
|--|-------------------------------|---|---|
| <code>`managedb.sh`</code> | Core backup/restore engine | <code>`../scripts/db/managedb.sh`</code> | |
| <code><backup restore> [suffix=current] [dir=./backups]`</code> You normally won't call this directly; use the small wrappers below. | | | |
| <code>`backupdb.sh`</code> | Minimal backup (plain SQL) | <code>`../scripts/db/backupdb.sh [suffix] [dir]`</code> | Default suffix <code>`current`</code> , default dir <code>`../backups`</code> . Overwrites existing file. |
| <code>`restoredb.sh`</code> | Minimal restore (plain SQL) | <code>`../scripts/db/restoredb.sh [suffix] [dir]`</code> | Restores <code>`<db>_<suffix>.sql`</code> . |
| <code>`backupdbzip.sh`</code> | Backup then gzip | <code>`../scripts/db/backupdbzip.sh [suffix] [dir]`</code> | Produces <code>`<db>_<suffix>.sql.gz`</code> . |
| <code>`restoredbzip.sh`</code> | Gunzip then restore | <code>`../scripts/db/restoredbzip.sh [suffix] [dir]`</code> | Reads <code>`<db>_<suffix>.sql.gz`</code> , inflates to <code>`*.sql`</code> , runs restore, cleans up <code>`*.sql`</code> . |
| <code>`backup_rotate.sh`</code> | Timestamped backup + prune | <code>`../scripts/db/backup_rotate.sh [retention_days=7] [dir]`</code> | Creates <code>`<db>_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.sql`</code> , deletes <code>`*.sql`</code> older than <code>`retention_days`</code> . |
| <code>`backupdbzip_rotate.sh`</code> | Timestamped gz backup + prune | <code>`../scripts/db/backupdbzip_rotate.sh [retention_days=7] [dir]`</code> | Creates <code>`<db>_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.sql.gz`</code> , prunes old <code>`*.sql.gz`</code> . |

****Common examples (run from your ``project/`` directory):****

```

```bash
Minimal backup/restore (plain .sql)
../scripts/db/backupdb.sh
../scripts/db/restoredb.sh

Name the backup
../scripts/db/backupdb.sh nightly
../scripts/db/restoredb.sh nightly

Write to a specific directory
../scripts/db/backupdb.sh nightly ./backups

Gzipped backup/restore
../scripts/db/backupdbzip.sh nightly
../scripts/db/restoredbzip.sh nightly

Rotation (keep last 7 days by default)
../scripts/db/backup_rotate.sh
../scripts/db/backupdbzip_rotate.sh

Rotation with custom retention and dir
../scripts/db/backup_rotate.sh 14 ./backups
../scripts/db/backupdbzip_rotate.sh 21 ./backups
```

```

****Optional diagnostics:****

```

```bash
DEBUG=1 ../scripts/db/backupdb.sh nightly
```

```

Windows

> The `.bat` wrappers call into `managedb.ps1` through `managedb.bat`. If PowerShell script execution is restricted, you may need to allow it (for the current process only):
> `powershell -NoProfile -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File scripts\db\managedb.ps1 ...`
(handled by the wrapper).

| Script | Purpose | Usage | Notes |
|---|---|--|--|
| <code>managedb.bat</code> + <code>managedb.ps1</code> | Core engine (Windows) | <code>managedb.bat</code> | |
| <code><backup restore> [suffix] [dir]</code> | Normally invoked by the wrappers below. | | |
| <code>backupdb.bat</code> | Minimal backup (plain SQL) | <code>..\scripts\db\backupdb.bat [suffix] [dir]</code> | Overwrites existing file. |
| <code>restoredb.bat</code> | Minimal restore (plain SQL) | <code>..\scripts\db\restoredb.bat [suffix] [dir]</code> | Restores <code><db>_<suffix>.sql</code> . |
| <code>backupdbzip.bat</code> | Backup then gzip via PowerShell | <code>..\scripts\db\backupdbzip.bat [suffix] [dir]</code> | Produces <code><db>_<suffix>.sql.gz</code> . |
| <code>restoredbzip.bat</code> | Gunzip then restore | <code>..\scripts\db\restoredbzip.bat [suffix] [dir]</code> | Decompresses then restores; cleans up <code>.sql</code> . |
| <code>backup_rotate.bat</code> | Timestamped backup + prune | <code>..\scripts\db\backup_rotate.bat [retention_days] [dir]</code> | Creates <code><db>_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.sql</code> , prunes old <code>.sql</code> . |
| <code>backupdbzip_rotate.bat</code> | Timestamped gz backup + prune | <code>..\scripts\db\backupdbzip_rotate.bat [retention_days] [dir]</code> | Creates <code><db>_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.sql.gz</code> , prunes old <code>.sql.gz</code> . |

Examples (run from your `project\`` folder):

```
bat
..\scripts\db\backupdb.bat
..\scripts\db\restoredb.bat current .\backups

..\scripts\db\backupdbzip.bat nightly .\backups
..\scripts\db\restoredbzip.bat nightly .\backups

..\scripts\db\backup_rotate.bat 14 .\backups
..\scripts\db\backupdbzip_rotate.bat 21 .\backups
```

File naming & overwrite behavior

- Base name: `**<PGDATABASE>_<suffix>**`; default suffix `current`.
- Minimal backup writes `**<db>_current.sql**` and **overwrites** the file if it exists.
- Zip wrappers write `**<db>_<suffix>.sql.gz**`.
- Rotation scripts stamp names as `**<db>_YYYYMMDD_HHMMSS.sql[.gz]**` and **prune** older files by modification time.

Environment variables you can set

- `DATABASE_URL` - full Postgres URL (preferred if you don't set individual vars)
- `PGHOST`, `PGPORT`, `PGUSER`, `PGPASSWORD`, `PGDATABASE` - individual connection fields

- `POSTGRES_CONTAINER` - (optional) force a specific container name/ID
- `DEBUG=1` - verbose diagnostics (shows detection path, versions, `\conninfo`, absolute output path)

Requirements

- ****Docker**** (optional) - for auto-detection and ephemeral client fallback
- ****PostgreSQL client tools**** (optional) - `pg_dump`, `psql` in your PATH if you're not using Docker
- macOS: `brew install libpq` and add `libpq/bin` to `PATH`
- ****Windows****: PowerShell 5+ (built-in) is used for the engine (`managedb.ps1`) and gzip

Troubleshooting

****No file / zero-byte file****

- Run with `DEBUG=1` to see error output.
- Common causes:
- Wrong credentials or DB name → check `.env` content.
- Local `pg_dump` missing and Docker not running → install client tools or start Docker.
- Multiple Postgres containers and the wrong one is picked → set `POSTGRES_CONTAINER=<name>`.

****"pg_dump: command not found"****

- Local path missing: install client tools (or let Docker path be used).
- Selected DB container doesn't have client tools → script automatically switches to an ephemeral `postgres:16` client.

****Connecting to host from Docker on macOS****

- The script maps `localhost` to `host.docker.internal` automatically for ephemeral host-mode.

****Windows editor corrupted batch special chars****

- Save batch/PowerShell scripts as ****UTF-8 (no BOM)**** or ANSI; avoid smart quotes.

Safety notes

- These are ****logical dumps**** (schema & data) created via `pg_dump --clean --if-exists --no-owner --no-privileges`.
- Restores run with `psql -v ON_ERROR_STOP=1`.
- Minimal wrappers ****overwrite**** `current` dumps by design.
- Always test restore in a non-production environment before relying on backups.

Handy one-liners

****Mac/Linux:****

```
```bash
Quick daily with timestamp + gzip + 14-day retention
../scripts/db/backupdbzip_rotate.sh 14 ./backups

Debug a failing backup
DEBUG=1 ../scripts/db/backupdb.sh nightly
```

**Windows:**
```bat
REM Quick daily with timestamp + gzip + 14-day retention
..\scripts\db\backupdbzip_rotate.bat 14 .\backups
```
```