

[UIKit](#) / [UICollectionViewDelegate](#) / collectionView(\_:pasteboardWriterForItemAt:)

## Instance Method

# collectionView(\_:pasteboardWriterForItemAt:)

Provides the pasteboard writer for the item at the specified index

macOS 10.5+

```
@MainActor
optional func collectionView(
    _ collectionView: UICollectionView,
    pasteboardWriterForItemAt index: Int
) -> (any NSPasteboardWriting)?
```

## Parameters

**collectionView**

The collection view making the request.

**index**

The index of the item requiring a pasteboard writer.

## Return Value

The pasteboard writer object to use for managing the item data. Return `nil` to prevent the collection view from dragging the item.

## Discussion

The collection view calls this method for each item involved in the drag operation after it has determined that a drag should begin but before the drag operation has started. Your implementation of this method should create and return the pasteboard writer—an object conforming to the [NSPasteboardWriting](#) protocol—to use for providing the item’s data. Using the object you provide, the collection view creates an [NSDraggingItem](#) object for you and configures its [draggingFrame](#) and [imageComponents](#) properties for you using information from the item at the specified index path.

If you implement this method, the collection view does not call the [collectionView\(\\_: draggingImageForItemsAt:with:offset:\)](#) of your delegate or the [draggingImageForItems\(at:with:offset:\)](#) method of [NSCollectionView](#).

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## See Also

### Legacy Collection View Support

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, canDragItemsAt: IndexSet, with:
NSEvent) -> Bool
```

Returns a Boolean indicating whether the collection view can begin dragging the specified items.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, writeItemsAt: IndexSet, to:
NSPasteboard) -> Bool
```

Invoked after it has been determined that a drag should begin, but before the drag has been started.

Deprecated

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, namesOfPromisedFilesDroppedAt
Destination: URL, forDraggedItemsAt: IndexSet) -> [String]
```

Invoked to return an array of filenames that the receiver promises to create.

Deprecated

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, draggingImageForItemsAt: IndexSet
, with: NSEvent, offset: NSPointPointer) -> NSImage
```

Creates and returns a drag image to represent the specified items during a drag.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, draggingSession: NSDragging
Session, willBeginAt: NSPoint, forItemsAt: IndexSet)
```

Notifies your delegate that a drag session is about to begin.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, validateDrop: any NSDraggingInfo,  
proposedIndex: UnsafeMutablePointer<Int>, dropOperation: UnsafeMutable  
Pointer<NSCollectionView.DropOperation>) -> NSDragOperation
```

Validates the specified location to see if it is a valid drop target.

```
func collectionView(NSCollectionView, acceptDrop: any NSDraggingInfo,  
index: Int, dropOperation: NSCollectionView.DropOperation) -> Bool
```

Invoked when the mouse is released over a collection view that previously allowed a drop.