Using Hyper-V and WSL 2 Together on Windows

Yes, you can have both Hyper-V and WSL 2 enabled on the same Windows PC. In fact, WSL 2 requires Hyper-V-related features to function properly.

# ✅ Compatibility Summary

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | Can it coexist? | Notes |
| WSL 2 | ✅ Yes | Requires Virtual Machine Platform and Windows Subsystem for Linux |
| Hyper-V | ✅ Yes | Can run alongside WSL 2 |

# 🔧 Required Features for WSL 2

To run WSL 2, your system must have the following Hyper-V-related features enabled:

- Virtual Machine Platform  
- Windows Subsystem for Linux

# 🛠️ Enabling Both Hyper-V and WSL 2

Run the following commands in PowerShell as Administrator:

dism.exe /online /enable-feature /featurename:Microsoft-Hyper-V /all /norestart  
dism.exe /online /enable-feature /featurename:VirtualMachinePlatform /all /norestart  
dism.exe /online /enable-feature /featurename:Microsoft-Windows-Subsystem-Linux /all /norestart

Then restart your PC.

# 🧪 Use Cases

Here’s when to use each:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Use Case | Which Tool |
| Running Linux distros in CLI | WSL 2 |
| Running full VMs (Windows/Linux GUIs) | Hyper-V |
| Docker Containers | Docker Desktop (uses WSL 2 or Hyper-V) |

# ⚠️ Compatibility with Other Tools

Enabling Hyper-V may prevent some third-party virtualization tools like VirtualBox from working, unless they support Hyper-V backend.