

Install the Ruby SASS Program on a Mac

If you have a Mac, you will more than likely run into a problem when you try to install the SASS gem on your Mac from the terminal. The Terminal will likely tell you that you do not have permission to write to the Ruby gem installation directory.

To fix this, you can try a couple of options.

Option 1 – Use Sudo

This solution is easy, but not recommended due to security issues. Also, this solution may not work in the latest versions of Mac OS.

1. Add the “sudo” keyword before the ruby gem install command
 - a. **Note:** ignore the “\$” in the command below. The “\$” represents your terminal prompt

```
$ sudo gem install sass
```

2. After you enter the above command you will be prompted to enter your computers password
 - a. Note: When you enter your password in the terminal it will appear that none of your keystrokes are working. Don’t worry, this is a security feature, just keep typing your password and then press enter

Option 2 – Install your own version of Ruby that is separate from the OS version of Ruby

This solution involves a few more steps but is more secure for installing all your Ruby gems (not just Sass).

1. Download and install homebrew by entering the following command into your terminal. You may be asked for your computer's password, If so, enter it to continue the installation
 - a. Note: When you see the "\$" in front of a terminal command tutorial, do not include the "\$" in the command. The "\$" command simply means your prompt in the terminal window
 - b. Note: When the terminal window asks for your password it may appear as if nothing is happening when you enter your password, this is a security feature built into Unix, just continue entering your password and press enter
 - c. Note: No need to hand type this in, simply copy the command below (don't include the "\$:") and paste it into the terminal

```
$ /usr/bin/ruby -e "$(curl -fsSL https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/master/install)"
```

2. Install rbenv by typing the following command into your terminal window:

```
$: brew install rbenv
```

3. Check if the rbenv install went Ok by entering the following command into the terminal (again copy it but don't include the "\$:"):

```
$: curl -fsSL https://github.com/rbenv/rbenv-installer/raw/master/bin/rbenv-doctor | bash
```

4. After entering the above command, if you see:

```
Checking RubyGems settings: Ok
Auditing installed plugins: Ok
```

...somewhere in your terminal window, then the install went ok.

5. Enter the following command into the terminal:

```
$: rbenv init
```

6. Make note of the instructions listed in the terminal after entering the above command
 - a. The instructions will tell you to add the following text to the end of a file called "`~/bash_profile`":
 - i. `eval "$(rbenv init)"`
7. Open the "`~/bash_profile`" file by entering the following command into the terminal window:

```
$: open ~/.bash_profile
```

8. (Optional – depends if step 7 gave an error): If the "`~/bash_profile`" file does not exist, or you get an error in the previous command, simply create the file by entering the following command in the terminal:

```
$: touch ~/.bash_profile
```

9. If you performed step 8, then open the newly created file by entering the following command in the terminal:

```
$: open ~/.bash_profile
```

10. The "`~/bash_profile`" file will probably open in the TextEdit application (it may open in another plain text editor, it all depends how your file associations are set). With the file open in your text editor, add the following text to the end of the file. If the file is blank, simply paste the below text at the start of the file. Include the quotes:

```
eval "$(rbenv init -)"
```

11. Save and close the file
12. Completely quit the terminal application by going to the menu and selecting:
Terminal > Quit Terminal
13. Re-launch the terminal application

14. Install the latest stable version of ruby. When this was written (January, 2019) the latest stable version was “2.6.0”

a. To find out what the current latest stable version of Ruby is, visit this web site:

<https://www.ruby-lang.org/en/downloads/releases>

b. If you are reading this soon after January 2019 then enter the command below as is or if you are reading this at a later date then find out the latest version number and replace “2.6.0” with your version

```
$: rbenv install 2.5.0
```

15. Switch your Ruby install to the version you just installed. Enter the following command into your terminal window. Again, if your version number is different, then change the “2.6.0” part of the command to the version you just installed

```
$: rbenv local 2.6.0
```

16. This step may not be needed, but just in-case switch the global version of Ruby to the version you just installed by entering the following command into the terminal window (again, replace “2.6.0” with your installed version of Ruby)

```
$: rbenv global 2.6.0
```

17. You should now be able to install Sass without using “sudo”. Enter the following command into terminal to install Sass:

```
$: gem install sass
```

18. Check that Sass installed by entering the following command into the terminal:

```
$: sass -v
```

Your done!

Option 2 was a bit trickier but will be more secure in the long run. Plus this method means any future Ruby gems that you may need to install can also be installed without the "sudo" command.