

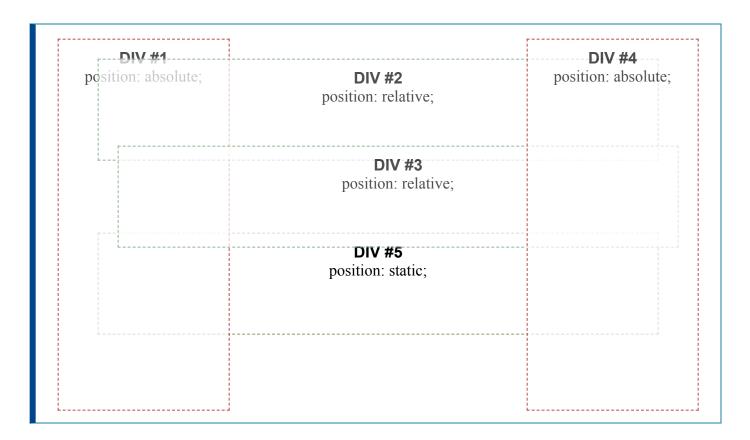
Stacking without the z-index property

When the <u>z-index</u> property is not specified on any element, elements are stacked in the following order (from bottom to top):

- 1. The background and borders of the root element
- 2. Descendant <u>non-positioned</u> blocks, in order of appearance in the HTML
- 3. Descendant positioned elements, in order of appearance in the HTML

Keep in mind, when the <u>order</u> property alters rendering from the "order of appearance in the HTML" within <u>flex</u> containers, it similarly affects the order for stacking context.

In the example below, elements #1 through #4 are positioned elements. Element #5 is static, and so is drawn below the other four elements, even though it comes later in the HTML markup.



O 1 C (1)

Source code for the example

HTML

```
<div id="abs1" class="absolute">
    <b>DIV #1</b><br />position: absolute;</div>
<div id="rel1" class="relative">
    <b>DIV #2</b><br />position: relative;</div>
<div id="rel2" class="relative">
    <b>DIV #3</b><br />position: relative;</div>
<div id="abs2" class="absolute">
    <b>DIV #4</b><br />position: absolute;</div>
<div id="abs2" class="static">
    <b>DIV #4</b><br />position: absolute;</div>
<div id="sta1" class="static">
    <b>DIV #5</b><br />position: static;</div>
```

CSS

```
font-family: sans-serif;
div {
 padding: 10px;
 border: 1px dashed;
 text-align: center;
.static {
  position: static;
 height: 80px;
 background-color: #ffc;
 border-color: #996;
.absolute {
  position: absolute;
 width: 150px;
 height: 350px;
 background-color: #fdd;
  border-color: #900;
  opacity: 0.7;
```

```
.relative {
  position: relative;
  height: 80px;
  background-color: #cfc;
  border-color: #696;
  opacity: 0.7;
#abs1 {
  top: 10px;
  left: 10px;
#rel1 {
 top: 30px;
 margin: Opx 50px Opx 50px;
#rel2 {
 top: 15px;
  left: 20px;
 margin: Opx 50px Opx 50px;
#abs2 {
  top: 10px;
  right: 10px;
#sta1 {
  background-color: #ffc;
  margin: Opx 50px Opx 50px;
```

See also

- Stacking with floated blocks: How floating elements are handled with stacking.
- <u>Using z-index</u>: How to use z-index to change default stacking.
- The stacking context: Notes on the stacking context.
- Stacking context example 1: 2 level HTML hierarchy, z index on the last level