

# Error: ssh-add: illegal option -- apple-use-keychain

## In this article

Solving the issue

Further reading

This error means your version of `ssh-add` does not support macOS keychain integration, which allows you to store your passphrase in the keychain.

The `--apple-use-keychain` option is in Apple's standard version of `ssh-add`, which stores the passphrase in your keychain for you when you add an ssh key to the ssh-agent. If you have installed a different version of `ssh-add`, it may lack support for `--apple-use-keychain`.

## Solving the issue [↗](#)

To add your SSH private key to the ssh-agent, you can specify the path to the Apple version of `ssh-add`:

```
/usr/bin/ssh-add --apple-use-keychain ~/.ssh/id_ed25519
```

### Notes:

- The `--apple-use-keychain` option is in Apple's standard version of `ssh-add`. In MacOS versions prior to Monterey (12.0), use `-K` instead of `--apple-use-keychain`.
- If you created your key with a different name, or if you are adding an existing key that has a different name, replace `id_ed25519` in the command with the name of your private key file.

## Further reading [↗](#)

- ["Generating a new SSH key and adding it to the ssh-agent"](#)
- [Linux man page for ssh-add](#)
- To view Apple's man page for SSH-ADD, run `man ssh-add` in Terminal

## Legal