

yt-dlp Installation Guide

Install the downloader used by ClipForge to retrieve source video before FFmpeg creates the selected clips. Instructions cover macOS and Windows.

Before you begin

yt-dlp is a free, open-source command-line application. The ClipForge web app does not download or store videos; the exported project uses yt-dlp locally on the user's computer.

Downloading videos may be restricted by a platform's terms and by copyright law. Use only content you are authorized to download and reuse.

macOS installation

1. Open **Terminal** from Applications > Utilities.
2. Check whether Homebrew is already installed:

```
brew --version
```

3. If needed, install Homebrew from:

<https://brew.sh>

4. Install yt-dlp:

```
brew install yt-dlp
```

5. Confirm the installation:

```
yt-dlp --version
```

A version number means yt-dlp is ready.

Windows installation

1. Open **Windows Terminal** or **PowerShell**.
2. Install yt-dlp using Windows Package Manager:

```
winget install -e --id yt-dlp.yt-dlp
```

3. Close and reopen Terminal after installation.
4. Confirm the installation:

```
yt-dlp --version
```

A version number means yt-dlp is ready. If Windows still says the command is not recognized, restart the computer and test again.

Video walkthroughs

Mac: [yt-dlp macOS Installation Tutorial](#)

Windows: [How to Install and Set Up yt-dlp on Windows \(2026\)](#)

Windows full tutorial: [yt-dlp Full Tutorial for Windows](#)

Official references

[Official yt-dlp installation guide](#)

[Official yt-dlp GitHub project](#)

[Homebrew yt-dlp formula](#)

[Windows winget package page](#)

Updating later

yt-dlp should be updated regularly because video websites change.

Mac:

```
brew update  
brew upgrade yt-dlp
```

Windows:

```
winget upgrade -e --id yt-dlp.yt-dlp
```

Troubleshooting

Command not found: Close and reopen Terminal, then try again. On Windows, restart the computer if needed.

Video download suddenly fails: Update yt-dlp using the command above and retry.

ClipForge script still stops: Run `yt-dlp --version`. The exported script cannot continue until that command works.

Some videos cannot be downloaded: Private, age-restricted, subscription, DRM-protected, or otherwise restricted videos may not work and should not be bypassed.