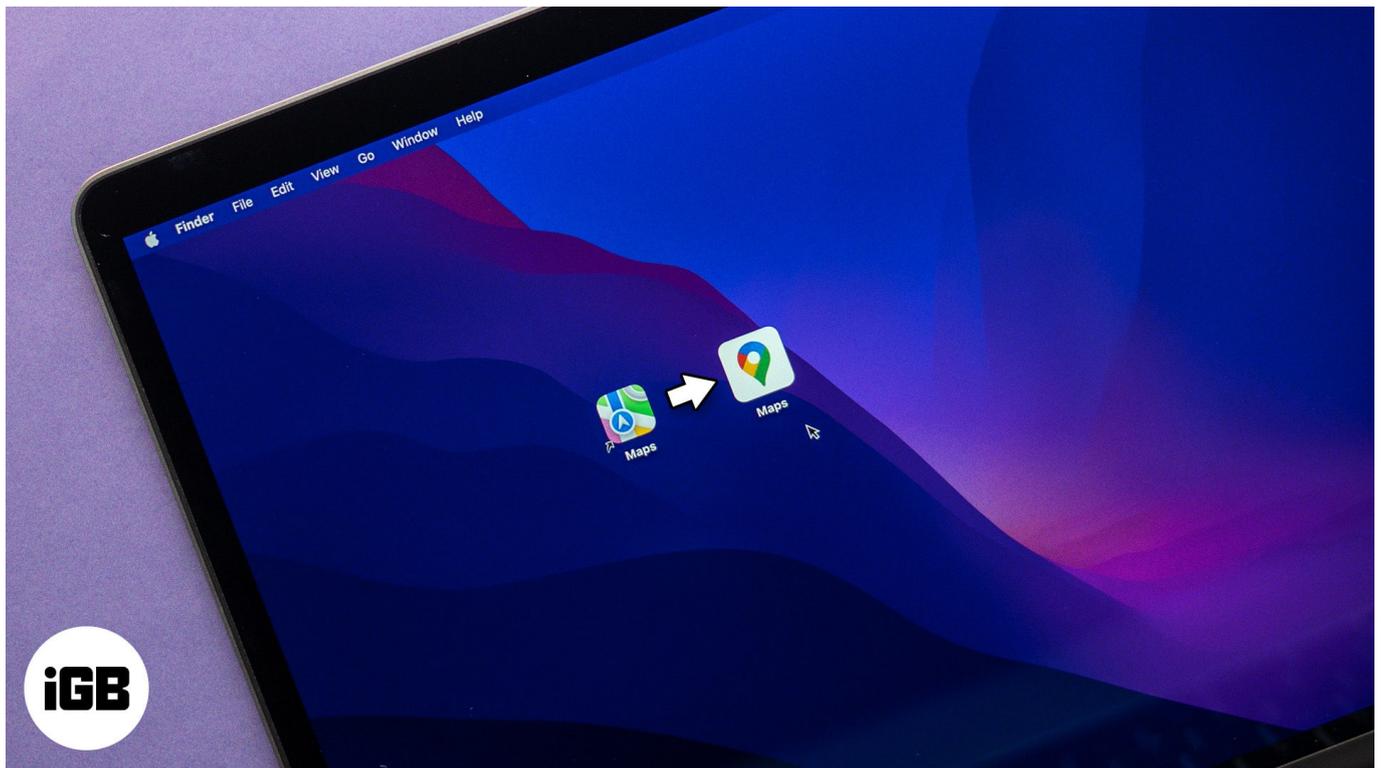


Are you bored of seeing the same old boring look of your macOS desktop? Changing the icons of folders or apps on your Mac is an easy way to make your device more personal. You can also visually organize your folders and identify them quickly this way.



Keep reading to find out how to change folder and app icons on a Mac.

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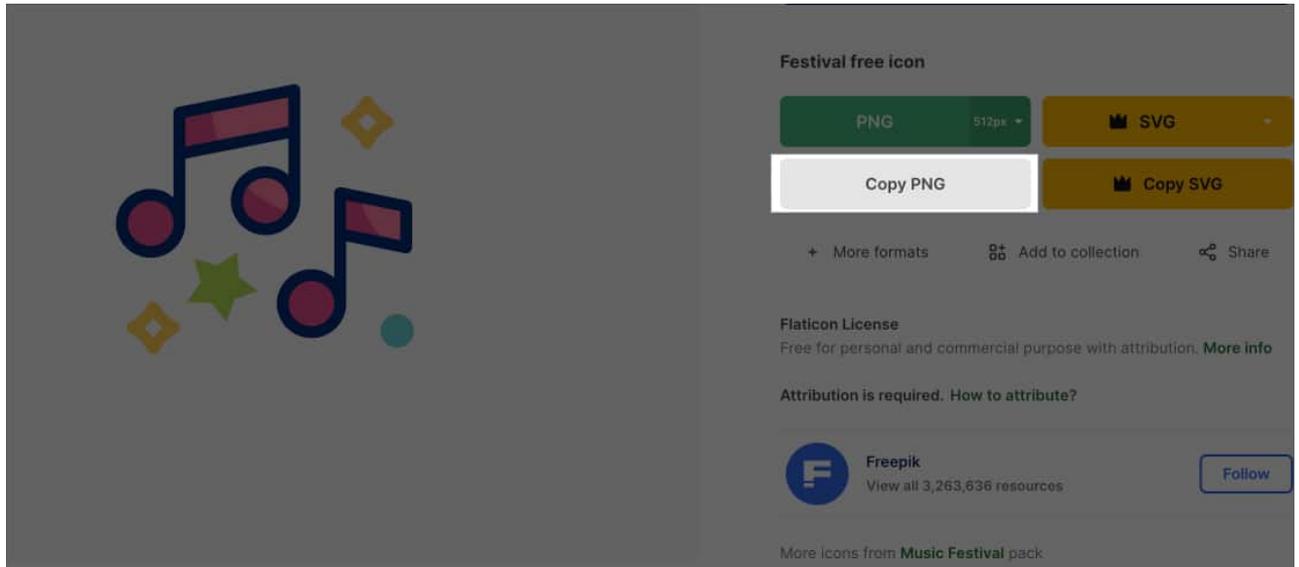
- [How to change the icon for a folder, app, or file on a Mac](#)
- [How to restore the original icon for a folder, app, or file on a Mac](#)

How to change the icon for a folder, app, or file on a Mac

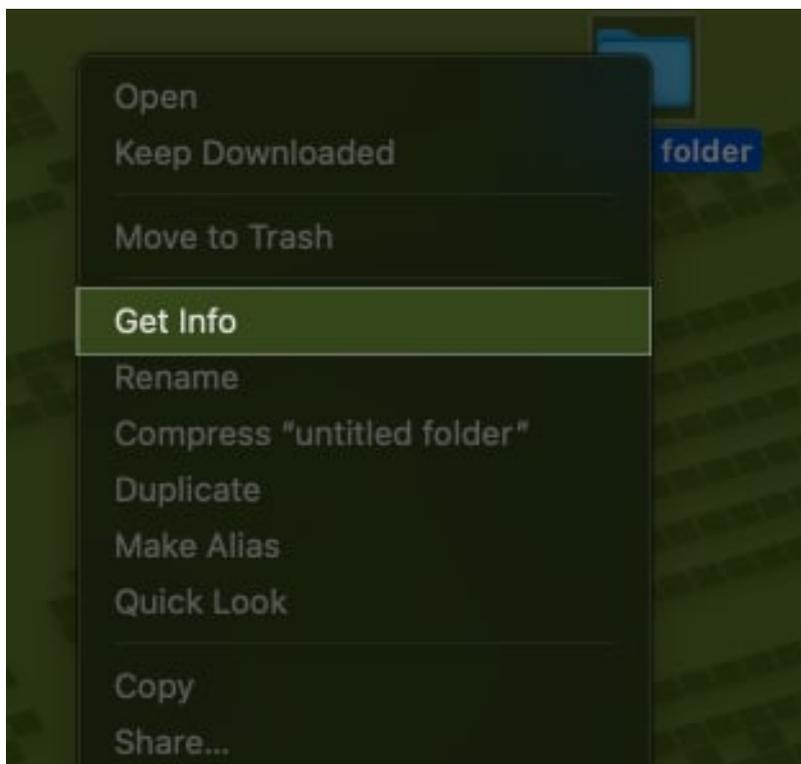
Changing the folder, app, and file icons on a Mac is easy and can be done in just a few steps.

1. Find the image you want to use as the icon. (For the best results, use a square PNG image with a transparent background. Check out [Flaticon](#) for free icons or inspiration.)
2. Open the image you want to use and copy it on your clipboard. For Flaticon website,

open the icon and click **Copy PNG**. If you are using images from any other website, right-click on the icon and select **Copy Image**.



3. Now, locate the folder, app, or file whose icon you want to change. Right-click on it and select **Get Info**. Or press **Command + I**.



4. Click on the current icon in the top-left corner of the **Info** window to select it.



5. Press **Command + V** to paste the copied image. When prompted for your system password, type it in. (Sometimes you may need to select and copy your image a few times to be able to paste it.)



Close the **Info** window and look at your folder or app. Your folder, app, or file should now display a new icon. If you do not see the changes, restart your Mac.

Note

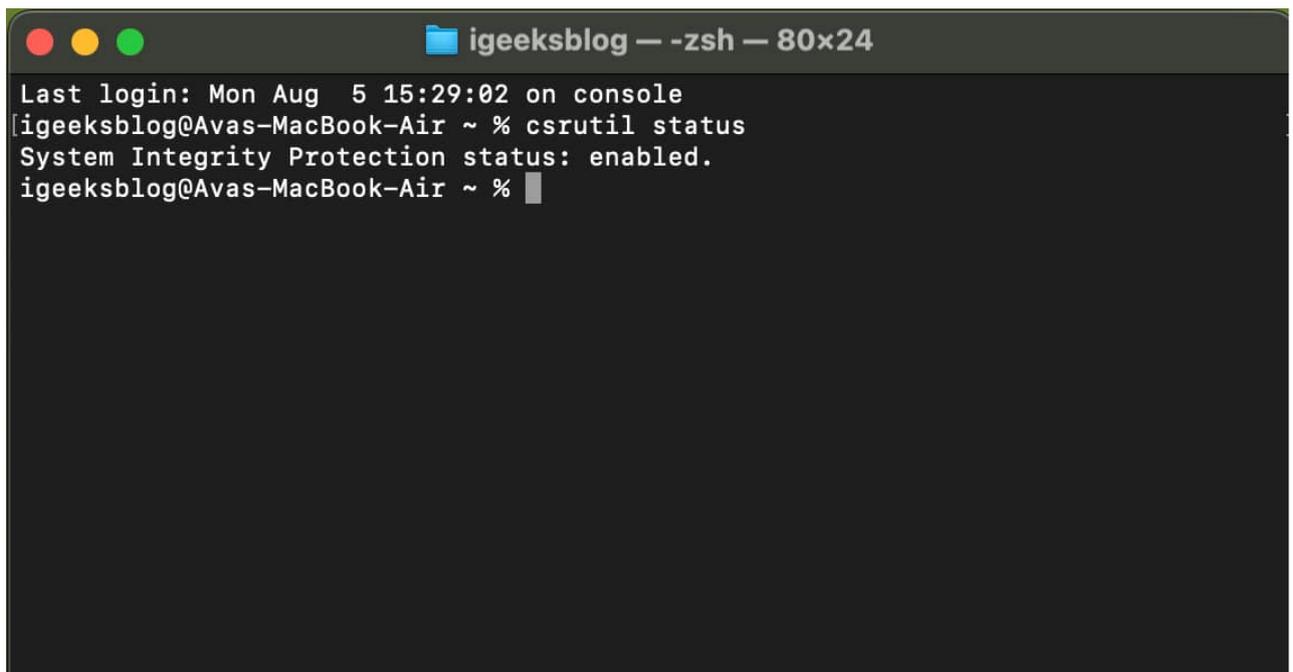
I could not change a folder's icon in succession on my Mac at the time of writing; I had to restore the custom icon to its default first and then change it again.

If you want to modify the icons of system applications (like Finder, Safari, and the like) on your Mac, you first need to disable SIP (System Integrity Protection). SIP is a security feature that prevents unauthorized changes to system files.

If you decide to go this route, be sure to follow the necessary steps carefully, as it can affect your system's security.

1. Shut down your Mac. Then, press and hold the **Power** button as soon as the screen turns off to [start your Mac in Recovery mode](#).

2. Now, click **Options** and select **Continue**.
3. Click the **Utilities** option from the menu bar at the top.
4. Select **Terminal** to open it.
5. In the **Terminal** window, type **csrutil status** and hit the **Return** key. This will tell you if System Integrity Protection is turned on for your system.



```
igeeksblog — -zsh — 80x24
Last login: Mon Aug  5 15:29:02 on console
[igeeksblog@Avas-MacBook-Air ~ % csrutil status
System Integrity Protection status: enabled.
igeeksblog@Avas-MacBook-Air ~ % █
```

6. To disable SIP, type **csrutil disable** and hit **Return**.
7. Click the **Apple** menu and select **Shut Down**.

Now, wait for your Mac to restart normally. Once it does, you can change the icon of system apps on your Mac. Make sure to enable System Integrity Protection again after you have finished changing the icons.

Don't want to change the Mac folder icons? If you like an icon but only want to change its color, you can also do that. Follow our guide to [change folder color on Mac](#) and enjoy applying beautiful new colors to sort your data.

How to restore the original icon for a folder, app, or file on a Mac

At any point, if you want to reset an icon to its default design, we got you covered. Follow these steps, and you will have the original icon again:

1. Right-click on the folder or app whose icon you want to restore and select **Get Info**.
2. Click on the custom icon in the top-left corner of the **Info** window.
3. Press **Command + X** to cut the custom icon. This will remove it and revert to the default icon. You may also press the **Delete** key to remove the custom icon.

Now, close the **Info** window, and you will see the default app or folder icon. If you want to change it again, just follow the original procedure.

Have fun customizing!

Customizing your Mac desktop can be a fun and rewarding way to make your device feel more personalized and user-friendly. We hope this guide helped you change icons for apps and folders you always wanted to change on your Mac.

If you face any issues changing icons on your Mac, drop them in the comments.

FAQs

What types of images can I use for custom icons?

You can use any photo, though it is recommended to choose a square one for the best outcome. Usual formats such as PNG, JPEG and ICNS perform effectively.

Can I change the icon for multiple files or folders at once?

Unfortunately, you cannot change multiple icons at the same time directly. You will need to change each Mac icon individually.

Read More :

- [How to change app icons on iPhone](#)
- [How to change font size in Finder on Mac](#)
- [Most useful Terminal commands for macOS](#)