

Import Photoshop and Figma designs straight into Pencil

Bringing your designs into Pencil is now simpler. Drop a Photoshop file straight in, or paste a link to a Figma section: nothing to install, and no file to export first. From 1 October 2026, this built-in import replaces the Pencil plug-ins for Photoshop and Figma.

What's new

Import now happens in one step, inside Pencil. You get the same editable creative or template as before, with less work to get there.

- **Nothing to install.** No plug-in to set up or keep updated.
- **No extra file.** Skip exporting a .pencil file and uploading it; bring in your PSD or Figma design directly.
- **No Photoshop needed to import.** Anyone on your team with the .psd can bring it into Pencil from their browser.
- **All your sizes at once.** Each Photoshop artboard, or each frame in a Figma section, becomes its own format in one creative or template.
- **You stay in control.** Preview your layers before importing and choose which stay editable.
- **Easy updates.** When a Figma design changes, import again from the same link.
- **Back to Photoshop anytime.** Pencil also exports layered PSDs, so you can take work back to Photoshop for final touches.

Import a Photoshop file

You can import any RGB .psd up to 1 GB, using a current version of Chrome, Firefox or Edge, or Safari 16.4 and later.

1. Go to **Files** and open the **Works** tab for a creative, or the **Templates** tab for a reusable template.
2. Choose **New** → **Import PSD** and select your .psd file. You can also drag the file straight onto the page.
3. Review the preview. Your artboards appear on one side and the selected artboard's layers on the other.
4. For each layer, leave **Keep Editable** on if you want to change it in Pencil. Turn it off to lock the layer's exact original look, which is best for layers using Photoshop effects.
5. Optionally, mark image layers to add them to your asset library at the same time.
6. Confirm the import. Each artboard becomes its own format in the finished creative or template.

Working on a canvas? Choose **Add content** → **Files** → **Import PSD** to import directly onto the board.

Import from Figma

Connect your Figma account once, then import any section by pasting its link.

Connect Figma (one time)

1. Go to **Settings** → **Integrations**, find **Figma** and choose **Connect**.
2. Sign in to Figma and allow access.

Each person connects their own Figma account, and a connection works in one Pencil workspace at a time. If you don't see Figma import, ask a workspace admin to turn on **Figma Import** under **Settings** → **Beta features**.

Import a section

1. In Figma, right-click the **section** you want and choose **Copy link**. Pencil imports one section at a time; links to a single frame or a whole file won't work.
2. In Pencil, go to **Files** and open the **Works** or **Templates** tab.
3. Choose **New** → **Import Figma file**, paste the link and choose **Import**.
4. Review what Pencil found, including anything it flags for a closer look, then confirm.

The section becomes one creative or template, and each frame inside it becomes a format. Layers stay editable, text stays text and shapes stay shapes. You can also import from a canvas with **Add content** → **Files** → **Import Figma**.

What's happening to the Pencil plug-ins

From 1 October 2026, built-in import takes over from the Pencil plug-ins for Photoshop and Figma, and the plug-ins are no longer supported.

- **Your existing work is safe.** Anything you've already imported through a plug-in stays in Pencil, unchanged.
- **The .pencil import option goes away.** If you have .pencil files saved, import the original PSD or Figma section instead.
- **There's nothing else to do.** Next time you import, just follow the steps above.

Tips for the best results

A little preparation means more of your design arrives fully editable.

Fonts

- Add your design's fonts to the **Brand library** before importing. Pencil matches fonts by exact name, including capitalisation and punctuation.
- Upload each weight as its own file: *Poppins-Bold* doesn't cover *Poppins-SemiBold*. Use static font files, as variable fonts aren't supported.

Photoshop files

- Save the file in RGB. Convert CMYK or other colour modes before importing.
- Draw editable shapes with the rectangle, ellipse, triangle or line tools. Freeform shapes come in as images.
- Keep effects simple on layers you want to edit. Adjustment layers aren't imported, and Smart Objects and complex effects come in as images.

Figma files

- Connect with a full Figma seat, and import from files saved in your organisation's team or project space rather than personal drafts. Figma limits how often other seats and drafts can be read.
- Keep each section to 3–4 frames, and import one section at a time.
- Apply masks, effects and rotation to individual layers, not to groups. An effect on a

group turns the whole group into a single image.

- Keep all content inside frames. Anything placed on the section background isn't imported.

Both

- Give a layer the same name in every artboard or frame. Pencil then treats it as one layer, so you can edit it across all formats at once.

FAQ

Do I lose anything by moving off the plug-in? No. Your imported work stays as it is, and built-in import gives you the same editable result in fewer steps.

Can I still use my .pencil files? Not after 1 October. Import the original PSD or Figma section instead.

Do I need Photoshop to import a PSD? No. You just need the .psd file and a supported browser.

Do I need a paid Figma plan? Figma limits how often files can be read on free plans, lower seat types and personal drafts. For reliable imports, connect with a full seat and import from your organisation's paid team or project space.

Why didn't my Figma link work? Check that it links to a section rather than a single frame or a whole file, and that your Figma account is connected in this workspace.

Can I send designs back to Figma? Figma import is one-way. You can export any static creative from Pencil as a layered PSD.

Need a hand? Contact the Pencil support team or your account manager, and we'll help you with your first import. For more on Figma, see [How can I import Figma designs into Pencil?](#)