

Homebrew Quick Reference

Package management, casks, taps, services, cleanup

Installation

Install Homebrew

```
/bin/bash -c "$(curl -fsSL \
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Homebrew/install/HEAD/install.
sh)"
brew --version      # verify installation
```

Post-Install (Apple Silicon)

```
# add Homebrew to PATH (Apple Silicon default)
echo 'eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)'" \
>> ~/.zprofile
eval "$(/opt/homebrew/bin/brew shellenv)"
```

Install Paths

<code>/opt/homebrew</code>	Apple Silicon (ARM) prefix
<code>/usr/local</code>	Intel Mac prefix
<code>/home/linuxbrew/.linuxbrew</code>	Linux prefix

Package Management

Install & Remove

<code>brew install git</code>	# install formula
<code>brew install git@2.40</code>	# install specific version
<code>brew uninstall git</code>	# remove formula
<code>brew reinstall git</code>	# reinstall formula

Update & Upgrade

<code>brew update</code>	# update Homebrew itself
<code>brew upgrade</code>	# upgrade all packages
<code>brew upgrade git</code>	# upgrade specific package
<code>brew pin git</code>	# prevent auto-upgrade
<code>brew unpin git</code>	# allow upgrade again

List Installed

<code>brew list</code>	# all installed formulae
<code>brew list --cask</code>	# all installed casks
<code>brew leaves</code>	# top-level (not dependencies)
<code>brew deps git</code>	# show dependencies of git

Search & Info

Finding Packages

<code>brew search postgres</code>	# search by name
<code>brew search --cask chrome</code>	# search casks only
<code>brew info git</code>	# package details
<code>brew home git</code>	# open homepage in browser

Info Fields

Name / Version	Package name and installed version
Dependencies	Required packages
Conflicts	Packages that cannot coexist
Caveats	Post-install notes (PATH, config)
Analytics	Install count (past 30/90/365 days)

Services

Managing Services

<code>brew services list</code>	# all services + status
<code>brew services start postgresql</code>	# start and auto-launch
<code>brew services stop postgresql</code>	# stop service
<code>brew services restart nginx</code>	# restart service
<code>brew services run redis</code>	# start without auto-launch

Service Notes

start	Launch now + register for login startup
run	Launch now only (no auto-start)
stop	Stop and deregister from startup
restart	Stop then start
list	Show all services and their status
Logs	Check <code>~/Library/Logs/Homebrew/</code>

Casks

GUI Application Management

<code>brew install --cask firefox</code>	# install GUI app
<code>brew uninstall --cask firefox</code>	# remove GUI app
<code>brew upgrade --cask</code>	# upgrade all casks
<code>brew list --cask</code>	# list installed casks

Common Casks

google-chrome	Chrome browser
visual-studio-code	VS Code editor
docker	Docker Desktop
iterm2	iTerm2 terminal
slack	Slack messaging
rectangle	Window management
1password	Password manager
raycast	Launcher (Spotlight replacement)

Taps

Third-Party Repositories

<code>brew tap</code>	# list tapped repos
<code>brew tap hashicorp/tap</code>	# add a tap
<code>brew untap hashicorp/tap</code>	# remove a tap
<code>brew install hashicorp/tap/terraform</code>	# install from tap

Popular Taps

homebrew/cask	GUI apps (included by default)
homebrew/cask-fonts	Fonts: <code>brew install --cask font-fira-code</code>
homebrew/bundle	Brewfile support (Bundler for Homebrew)
hashicorp/tap	Terraform, Vault, Consul

Brewfile (Bundle)

<code>brew bundle dump</code>	# generate Brewfile
<code>brew bundle install</code>	# install from Brewfile
<code>brew bundle cleanup</code>	# remove unlisted packages

Cleanup

Freeing Disk Space

<code>brew cleanup</code>	# remove old versions
<code>brew cleanup -s</code>	# also remove cache
<code>brew cleanup --prune=all</code>	# remove all cached downloads
<code>brew autoremove</code>	# remove unused dependencies

Diagnostics

<code>brew doctor</code>	# check for issues
<code>brew config</code>	# show Homebrew config
<code>brew missing</code>	# list missing dependencies
<code>du -sh \$(brew --cache)</code>	# check cache size

Common Patterns

Everyday Workflows

Morning update	<code>brew update && brew upgrade && brew cleanup</code>
New Mac setup	<code>brew bundle install</code> from a Brewfile
Export setup	<code>brew bundle dump --file=~/.Brewfile</code>
Check health	<code>brew doctor</code>
Find what uses space	<code>brew list --formula xargs brew info</code>
Uninstall + deps	<code>brew uninstall pkg && brew autoremove</code>

Brewfile Example

```
# ~/Brewfile
tap "homebrew/bundle"
brew "git"
brew "node"
brew "python"
cask "visual-studio-code"
cask "docker"
```