

# Exporting Projects and Disconnected Files

---

Reference Number: **KB-03212**

Last Modified: **August 12, 2025**

---

## QUESTION

I am using X17 or Home Designer 2026, and I need to send a project to someone, or transfer a project over to another computer. What is the best way to accomplish this?

## ANSWER

In X17/Home Designer 2026, projects can easily be exported from Chief Architect/Home Designer using the Export functions available throughout the program.



Reasons you might perform an export of these files:

- Copying/transferring to another computer
- Providing the file to a client or colleague
- Sending files to [Chief Architect Technical Support \(https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00717/using-the-technical-support-center.html\)](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/support/article/KB-00717/using-the-technical-support-center.html) for evaluation and troubleshooting
- Sending the files to someone using the [Chief Architect Desktop Viewer \(https://www.chiefarchitect.com/resources/viewerrequest.php\)](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/resources/viewerrequest.php)
- Archival purposes

**Note:** If you're using X16/Home Designer 2025, or a prior version, please refer to the "Using the Backup Entire Plan/Layout Tool" resource located in the [Related Articles](#) section.

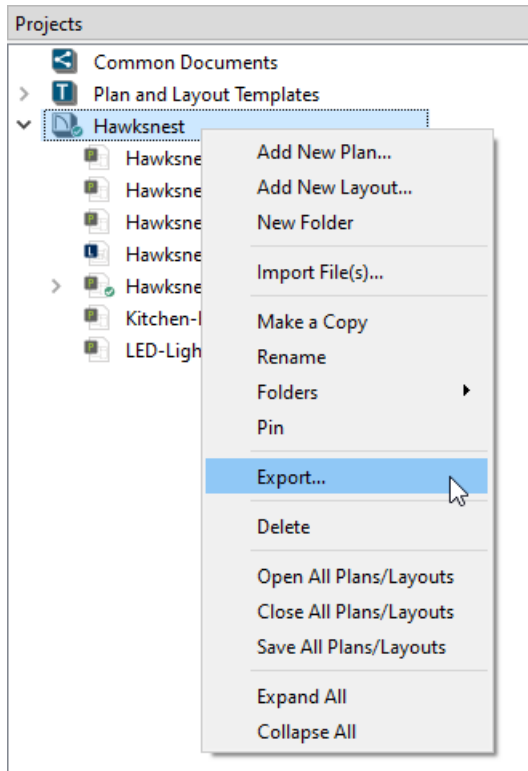
## Exporting projects

1. There are several ways to export projects:

- With Project Management enabled, navigate to **File> Export> Export Project**  while a plan or layout is open.
- With Project Management enabled, access the **Project Browser** , right-click on a single project, and select **Export** from the contextual menu.

**Note:** On a Mac, hold down the Control key while clicking to initiate a right-click command. More information about right-click commands on Apple input devices can be found in the following Apple

resource: [Right-click on Mac \(https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/right-click-mh35853/mac\)](https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/right-click-mh35853/mac).

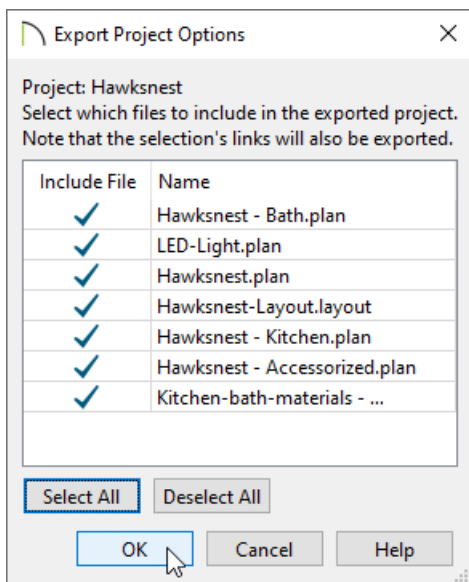


- Using Traditional File Management, navigate to **File> Export> Export Plan as Project**  if you're in a plan file, or **Export Layout as Project**  if you're in a layout file.

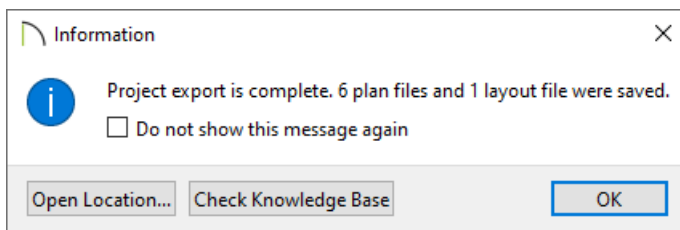
**Note:** If you use the Export Layout as Project tool while in a layout file, the layout and all plans associated with the layout will be backed up. However, if you use the Export Plan as Project tool while in a plan file, only the plan will be backed up.

- With Project Management enabled, the **Export Project Options** dialog will display next.

If you're using Traditional File Management, skip to the next step.



- Check/uncheck the files that you would like to include/exclude using the **Include File** column.
  - You can also click the **Select All/Deselect All** buttons to quickly include/exclude all of the files in the dialog.
  - Click **OK**.
3. In the dialog that appears next, specify a **File name**, a location to save the project to, then click **Save**.
4. An **Information** dialog will appear stating "Project export is complete. [#] plan file and [#] layout file were saved." Click **OK**.




All of the files that were included in Step 2 above, as well as all of the referenced asset files associated with the project will be included in the exported file. This project (.caproj) file can now be backed up or sent to another computer or Chief Architect/Home Designer user.

Although all referenced assets are included in a project export, individual assets can also be exported independently, if you so wish. Navigate to Tools> Asset Management, select the asset file you want to export, then click "Export". Alternatively, you can navigate to File> Export> Export Managed Resources, select the asset file you want to export, then click "Browse".

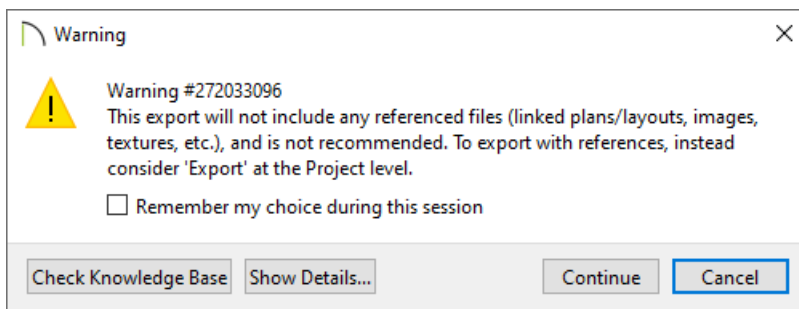
You can also export individual files that are located directly within the Project Browser; right-click on a file within the side window, then click "Export" from the contextual menu.

## Exporting disconnected plans and layouts (Project Management only)

1. With Project Management enabled, right-click on a plan or layout within the **Project Browser** , then click **Export Disconnected Plan** or **Export Disconnected Layout**.

**Note:** On a Mac, hold down the Control key while clicking to initiate a right-click command. More information about right-click commands on Apple input devices can be found in the following Apple resource: [Right-click on Mac \(https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/right-click-mh35853/mac\)](https://support.apple.com/guide/mac-help/right-click-mh35853/mac).

2. A **Warning** will appear stating that "This export will not include any referenced files (linked plans/layouts, images, textures, etc.), and is not recommended. To export with references, instead consider 'Export' at the Project level." Click **Continue** to proceed or **Cancel** to cancel the operation.







3. A **Question** dialog will appear asking if you want to export to a compressed (zipped) file? Click **Yes** or **No** to proceed.
4. In the dialog that appears next, specify a **File name**, a location to save the disconnected file to, then click **Save**.

As the warning stated, only the plan/layout file is exported when performing this process; assets and connected files are not exported, so missing file references may occur.

---

### Related Articles

-  [Backing Up and Restoring Chief Architect Content Using Project Management \(/support/article/KB-03211/backing-up-and-restoring-chief-architect-content-using-project-management.html\)](/support/article/KB-03211/backing-up-and-restoring-chief-architect-content-using-project-management.html)
-  [Enabling or Disabling Project Management \(/support/article/KB-03210/enabling-or-disabling-project-management.html\)](/support/article/KB-03210/enabling-or-disabling-project-management.html)
-  [Importing Projects \(/support/article/KB-03213/importing-projects.html\)](/support/article/KB-03213/importing-projects.html)
-  [Using the Backup Entire Plan/Layout Tool \(/support/article/KB-00987/using-the-backup-entire-plan-layout-tool.html\)](/support/article/KB-00987/using-the-backup-entire-plan-layout-tool.html)