



---

# Message: This is a Template. Open template or create new from template?

---

Reference Number: **KB-03215**

Last Modified: **December 16, 2025**

---

## QUESTION

I receive the following message when I'm attempting to open a plan or layout file.

- "#272012033 - This is a Template. Open template or create new from template?"

Can I receive some additional guidance relating to this message?

## ANSWER

When Chief Architect products opens a new plan or layout file, the new file is actually a copy of a template using either metric or U.S. units of measurement and predefined default settings, layer settings, wall definitions, page setup information, and more.

Once you are familiar with the default settings in Chief Architect, you can create template files to fit your needs, store them in your Templates directory on your system or within the "Plan and Layout Templates" area of the Project Browser, and even specify them as the defaults for new files.

If you have received the message above, you likely attempted to open a file that is specified as a template file. If this was done inadvertently, click **Create New From** to create a new plan/layout using the selected template, or click **Cancel**.

If you intended to open a template file, such as in the case where you need to make changes to the default settings in the template, you can proceed by clicking **Open**. The

template file will open, allowing you to edit the file as you see fit. When you click **Save**, the template file will be overwritten. For more information on templates, please see the resources located in the [Related Articles](#) section below.

**Note:** When creating a new plan or layout using a template, be sure to select the appropriate units of measurement. The units used in the new file - U.S. Units or metric - are the same as those in the template used to create it.

---

Related Articles

[📄 Creating and Using Layout Templates \(/support/article/KB-00737/creating-and-using-layout-templates.html\)](/support/article/KB-00737/creating-and-using-layout-templates.html)

[📄 Creating and Using Plan Templates \(/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-plan-templates.html\)](/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-plan-templates.html)

[📄 Resetting Template Files \(/support/article/KB-01866/resetting-template-files.html\)](/support/article/KB-01866/resetting-template-files.html)