

# How to back up data on iTunes or Music library

Although we store more and more music online today, hard copy remains the gold standard for keeping data safe. If you use Apple Music or iCloud Music Library, the best way to do that is still iTunes.

There are several ways to back up your iTunes library; It is important to back up regularly so that you don't have to worry about data being lost or corrupted.

## Make sure your entire library is downloaded

If you use iCloud Music Library or the iTunes Store, your music might be stored in the cloud. But to really make sure purchased content is backed up, you'll want to download another copy to your Mac. Here's how to do it:

1. Open **Music** (or **iTunes** on versions from Mojave and earlier) on the Mac.

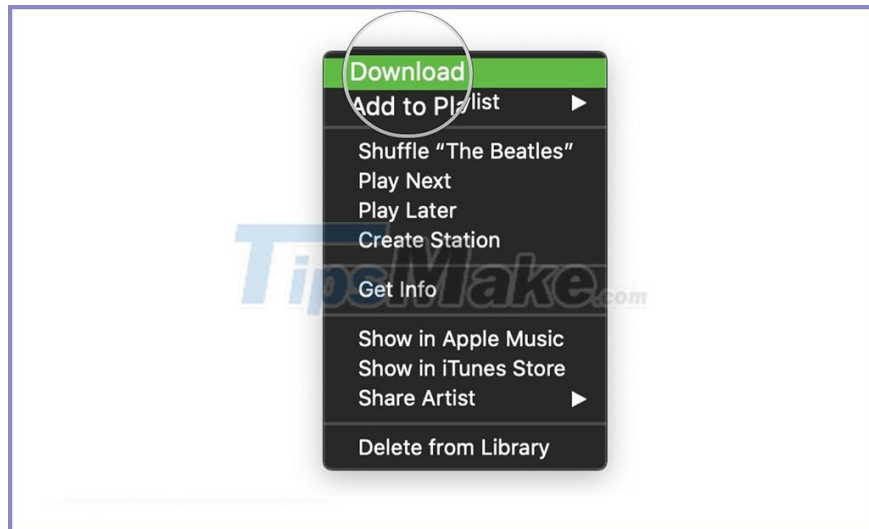


2. Open the **Artist** , **Albums** or **Songs** section you want to download.

3. Click the ... button to bring up the menu.



4. Click **Download** to download the items.

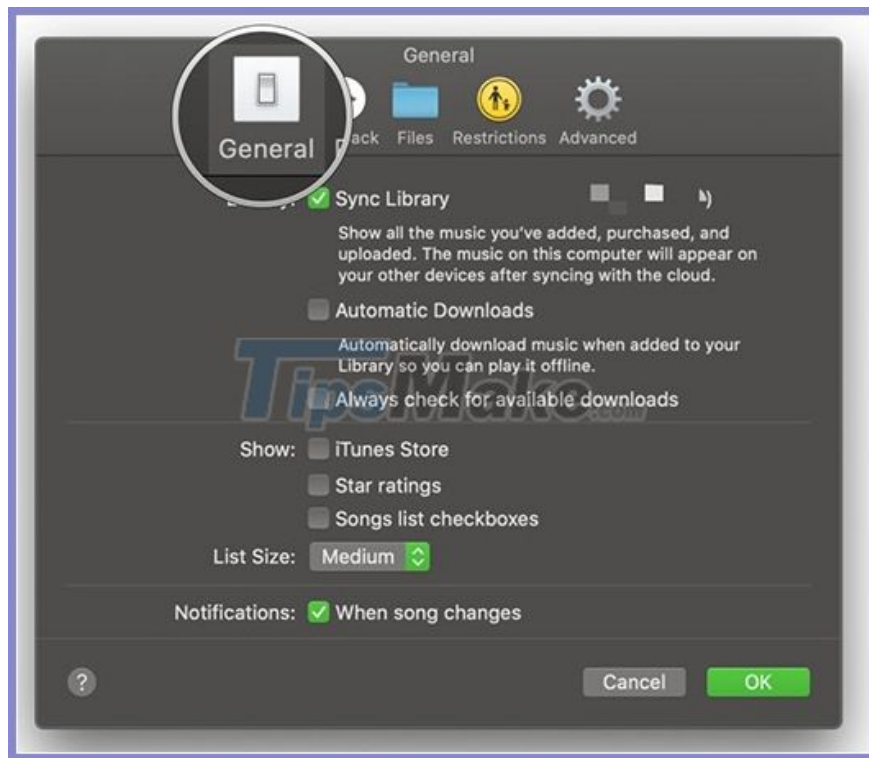


And if you want to start downloading automatically everything you add to your Apple Music library. Here's how:

1. Open **Music** (or **iTunes** on macOS Mojave dropdown) on your Mac.
2. Click **Music** in the menu bar.
3. Click **Preferences** (or press **Command** on your keyboard).

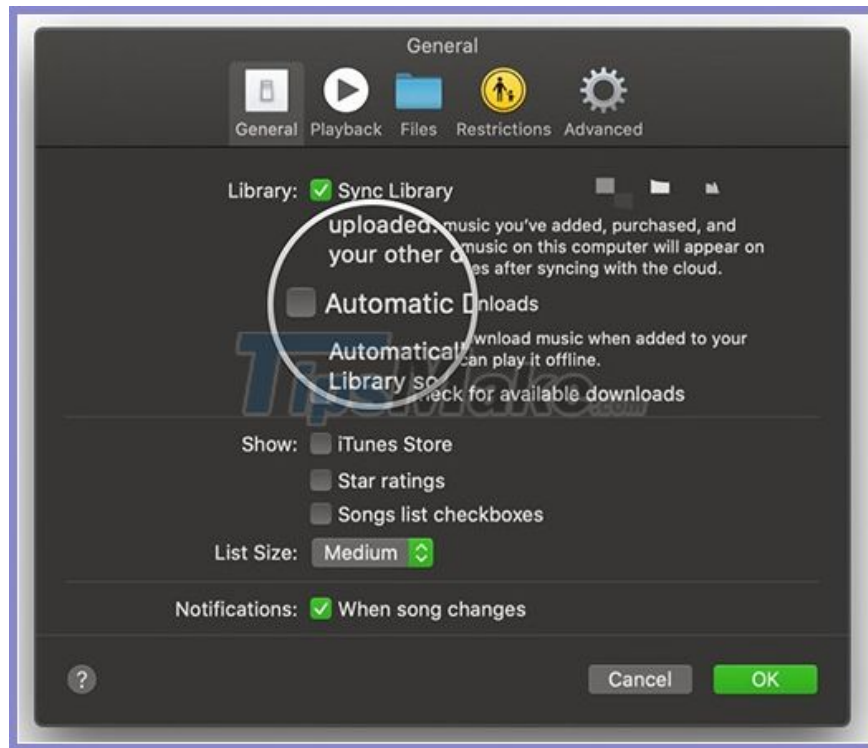


4. Go to the **General** tab .



Select **General**

5. Click on **Automatic Downloads** to pop up.



Check the Automatic Downloads box

When turned on, any songs you add to your library will automatically download to your Mac's hardware.

## How to backup iTunes via Time Machine or other backup services

If you have turned on Apple's Time Machine backup system, other cloud service, or system-based backup, your iTunes library will automatically load. This way, if you need to restore, you can go back to Time Machine's History (or a previous backup from CrashPlan or Carbon Copy Cloner) to get it back.

## How to manually backup iTunes library

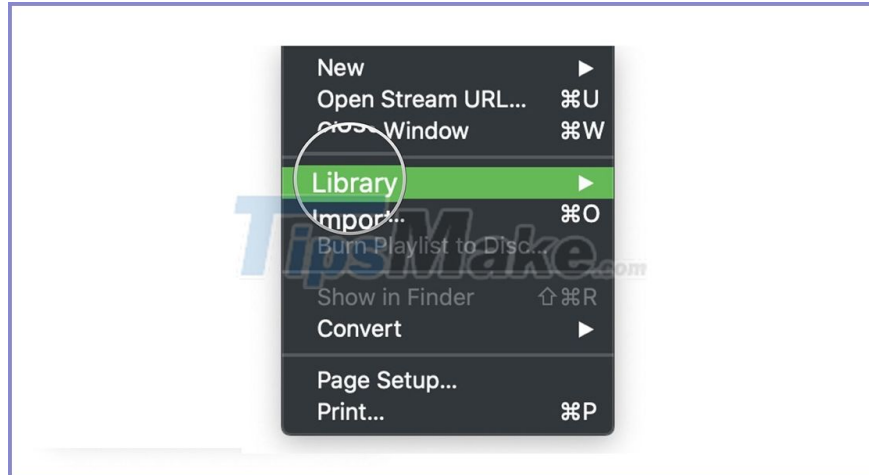
If you don't use the extended backup service for Mac, or want to back it up manually, here's how.

### Library consolidation

To make sure all iTunes files are in the same place when backing up manually, you should merge your iTunes library first.

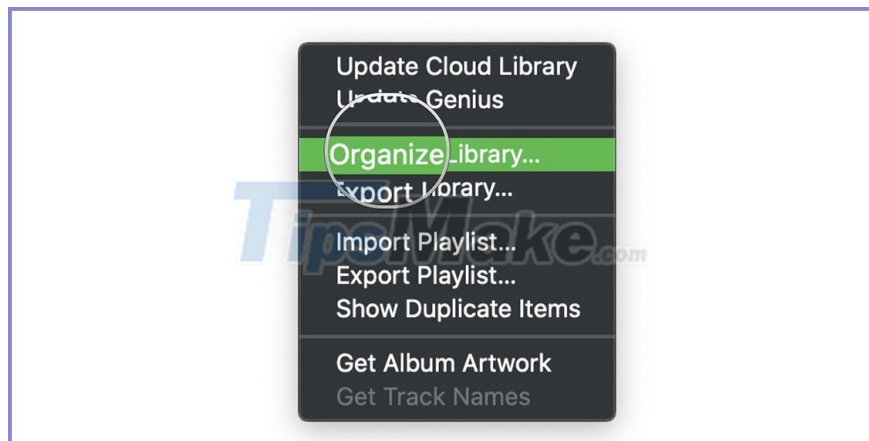
1. Make sure you've downloaded all the music onto your Mac.
2. Open **Music** (or **iTunes** from macOS Mojave down).
3. Click **File** in the upper-left corner of the Mac screen.

4. Hover over the **Library** section to see the menu.



Select Library

5. Select **Organize Library**.



Select Organize Library

6. Check the box **Consolidate Files** when the Organize Library window appears.



Check the box Consolidate

7. Click **OK** .

The steps above will create copies of all files in the iTunes media folder, without moving the originals anywhere.

## Copy iTunes library to a backup source

1. If you are using an external hard drive, connect to the Mac via a USB drive.

2. Click **Finder** .

3. Select **the Mac hard drive** .



Select external hard drive

4. Click **Music** in the sidebar.

5. Select the **Music** (or **iTunes** ) folder and drag it to your external hard drive or copy it to an online backup service.

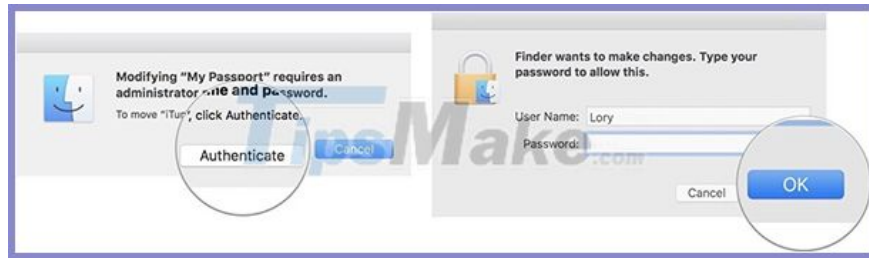


Select Music

6. Click **Authenticate** , if needed, open the permissions for copying iTunes folders.

7. Enter the device password.

8. Click **OK** .



Enter your device password and press OK

The copying process begins. This may take a while (quite a while), depending on your iTunes library data.

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