

# How to Install Themes in Ubuntu

This wikiHow teaches you how to install themes on Ubuntu 18.04 LTS. Many themes from Ubuntu's software repositories can be installed in a terminal window. Some themes must be manually extracted using Archive Manager. To apply installed...

Method 1 of 3:

## Installing Themes in a Terminal Window

1. **Search for a theme.** To search for Ubuntu themes, go to <https://www.google.com> and search "Ubuntu Themes". Popular lists of themes include the following:
  1. Gnome-Look
  2. OMG Ubuntu
  3. Ubuntu Pit
  4. It's Foss.
2. **Click the Ubuntu icon.** It's in the dock to the left. It's the circular icon with three notches. This opens the Dash.
3. **Type `terminal` in the search bar.** The search bar is at the top of the Dash.
4. **Click the terminal.** The terminal has an icon that resembles a black screen with a white prompt.
5. **Type `sudo apt get-install [package name]-theme` and press `? Enter`.** Replace "[package name]" with the name of the theme package. For example, to install the Arc theme, you would type `sudo apt get-install arc-theme` in the terminal.
  1. Enter your password if prompted to do so.
  2. Some themes may require additional commands. Read the installation instructions for any theme you want to download.
6. **Press `Y` on the keyboard.** You'll see how much free disk space you will have on your computer once the installation is complete.
7. **Type `sudo apt get-install [package name]-icons` in the terminal and press `? Enter`.** Use this command to install an icons theme in Ubuntu.
  1. Enter your password when prompted.
  2. Some themes may require additional commands. Read the installation instructions for any theme you want to download.
8. **Press `Y` on the keyboard.** You'll see how much free disk space you will have on your computer once the installation is complete.

Method 2 of 3:

## Manually Extracting Theme Files

1. **Search for a theme.** To search for Ubuntu themes, go to <https://www.google.com> and search "Ubuntu Themes." Popular lists of themes include the following:

1. Gnome-Look
  2. OMG Ubuntu
  3. Ubuntu Pit
  4. It's Foss.
2. **Click the download link.** When you find a theme you want to install click the download link to download the files.
  3. **Select "Save File" and click `Ok`.** This saves the file to your Downloads folder.
    1. Some themes have different versions and variations. Make sure you download the correct version you want to download.
  4. **Click the Archive Manager tool.** It's the icon that resembles a file cabinet on the dock, which is usually on the left side of the screen.
  5. **Click the `Downloads` folder.**
  6. **Right-click the downloaded file and select `Extract Here`.** Themes and icon files are usually downloaded as a ".tar.xz" file. This extracts the files inside.
  7. **Open the extracted folder.** This displays the contents of the folder.
  8. **Drag and drop any image files to the "Pictures" folder.** The "Pictures" folder is in the sidebar to the left of the file manager. Then click **Downloads** in the sidebar to the left return to the Downloads folder.
  9. **Right-click the extracted folder and select `Copy`.**
  10. **Click `Home`.** It's the first option at the top of the file manager in the sidebar to the left.
  11. **Click the `?` menu.** It's the icon with three horizontal lines. It's in the upper-right corner of the Archive Manager.
  12. **Click `Show Hidden Files` on the menu.** Additional files will appear.
  13. **Click the `.themes` or `.icons` folder.** These are hidden folders in the Home folder.
    1. If you don't have a ".themes" or ".icons" folder, click **New Folder** and create two new folders and name them ".themes" and ".icons".
  14. **Right-click a blank space in the folder and click `Paste`.** Themes go in the ".themes" folders and icons themes go in the ".icons" folder.

Method 3 of 3:

## Installing GNOME Tweaks and Applying Themes

1. **Open the Ubuntu Software Center.** It has an icon that resembles an orange shopping bag with an "A" on it. It's in the Dock to the left side.
2. **Type `Gnome Tweaks` in the search bar.** The search bar is at the top of the Ubuntu Software Center.
3. **Click `GNOME Tweaks` in the search results.** It has an icon that resembles a control panel with slider bars and knobs.
4. **Click `Install`.** It's below the software title.
5. **Enter your password and click `Authenticate`.** You'll need to enter your Ubuntu user password in order to install new software on your system.<sup>[2]</sup>
  1. Alternatively, you can install GNOME Tweaks by running the following command in a terminal window: `sudo apt install gnome-tweaks`.
6. **Click the Ubuntu icon.** It's in the dock to the left. It's the circular icon with three notches. This opens the Dash.
7. **Type `terminal` in the search bar.** The search bar is at the top of the Dash.
8. **Click the terminal.** The Terminal has an icon that resembles a black screen with a white cursor.

9. Type `sudo apt install gnome-shell-extensions` and press `? Enter`. This is the command to install the GNOME Shell extensions, which is needed to change the panel color.
  1. Enter your user password when prompted to run the command.
10. **Log out and log back in.** After you finish installing GNOME Tweaks, you need to log out in order for the installation to take. Click the Power icon in the upper-right corner and click **Log Out**. Then click your username and enter your password to log back in.
11. **Open GNOME Tweaks.** It has an icon that resembles a control panel with slider bars and knobs. You can open GNOME Tweaks in the Dash or by clicking "Launch" in the Ubuntu Software Center. Use the following steps to open the GNOME Tweaks in the Dash.
  1. Click the icon that resembles the Ubuntu icon.
  2. Type `Tweaks` in the search bar at the top.
  3. Click **GNOME Tweaks**.
12. Click **Extensions**. It's in the sidebar to the left.
13. **Enable User Themes.** To enable user themes, click the toggle switch next to "User Themes". This allows you to change your colors and panels.
14. Click **Appearance**. It's the first option in the sidebar menu to the left.
15. **Use the drop-down menus to select themes.** You can use the drop-down menus next to "Applications," "Cursor," "Icons," and "Shell" to select installed themes.
16. **Click the file icon next to "Image" below "Background."** This allows you to select an image to use as your desktop wallpaper.
17. **Click an image to select it and click **Select**.** This selects an image you can use for your desktop wallpaper.
18. **Click the file icon next to "Image" below "Lock Screen."** This allows you to select an image to use for your lock seen image.
19. **Click and image and click **Select**.** This selects an image you can use for your desktop wallpaper.

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