

# Instructions on how to use Claude in Cursor

Detailed instructions on how to activate and optimize Claude 4.6 (Sonnet, Opus) in Cursor for super-fast AI-powered programming.

In the modern programming era, Cursor has established itself as a leading IDE thanks to its deep integration of large language models ( LLM ). In particular, the release of **Claude 4.6 (Sonnet and Opus versions)** marked a turning point in logical thinking capabilities and code generation speed. This article will guide you on how to set up and maximize the power of Claude within Cursor.

## 1. Why should I choose Claude 4.6 over other models in Cursor?

Claude 4.6, especially the Sonnet version, is becoming the preferred choice for the Cursor developer community. Compared to previous versions, Claude 4.6 offers:

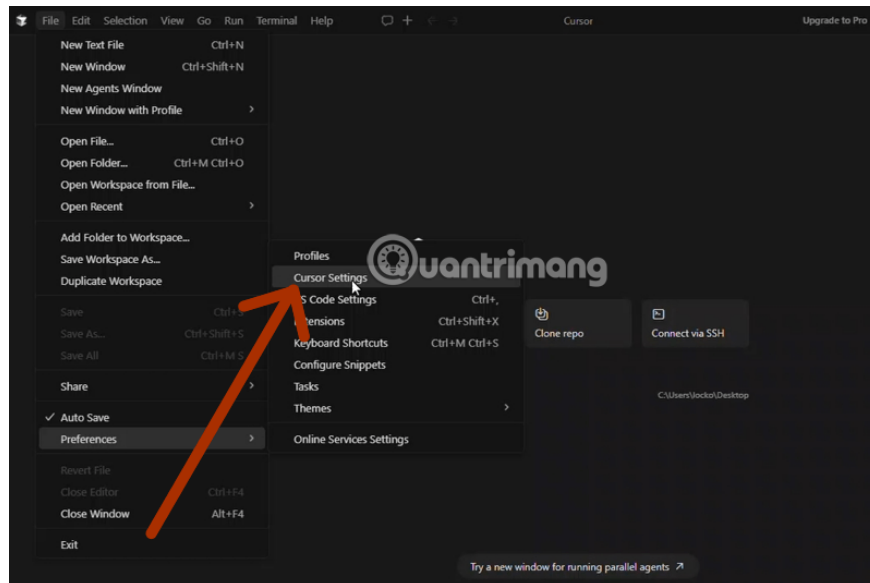
1. **Superior reasoning ability:** Thorough understanding of complex directory structures and file relationships.
2. **Fewer logical errors:** Minimizes instances of AI writing "virtual" code or failing to adhere to the project's context.
3. **Response speed:** Sonnet version 4.6 provides near-instantaneous response speeds, ensuring uninterrupted programming workflows.

## 2. Steps to activate Claude 4.6 in Cursor

To get started, you need to perform a few simple setup steps in Cursor's system settings:

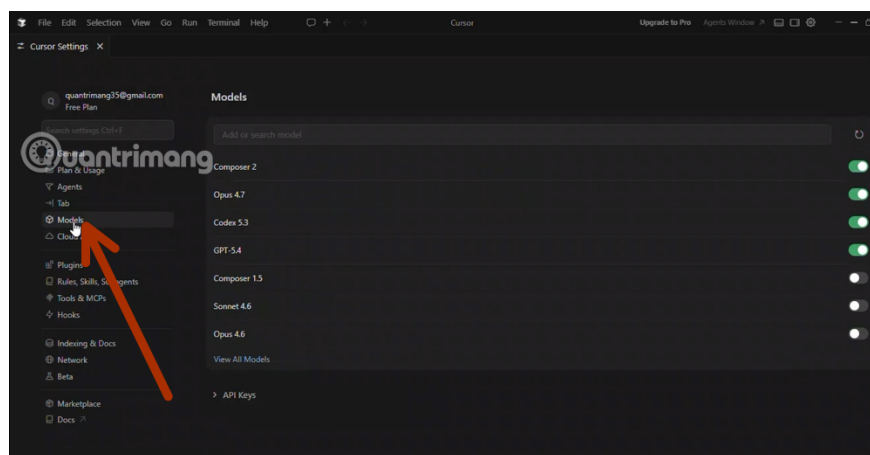
### Step 1: Open the Cursor app:

Make sure you are using the latest version of Cursor to support models 4.6. Click **File** in the toolbar and select **Preferences**, then select **Cursor Settings**.



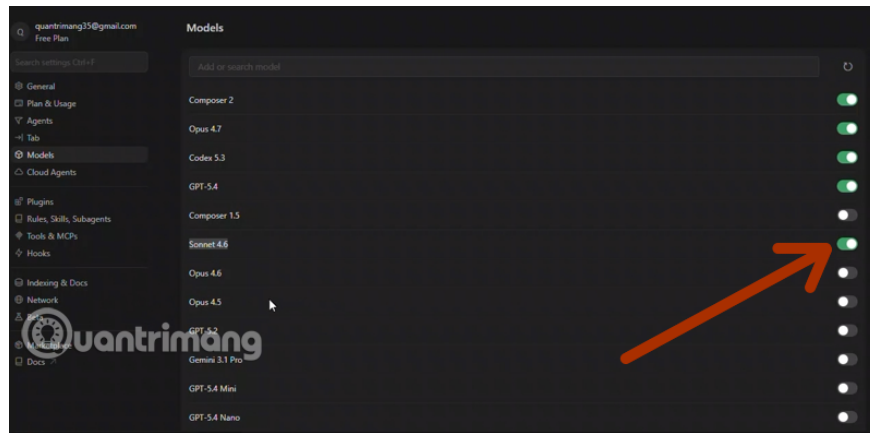
### Step 2: Go to the Models tab:

In the left sidebar of the settings window, find the **Models** tab .

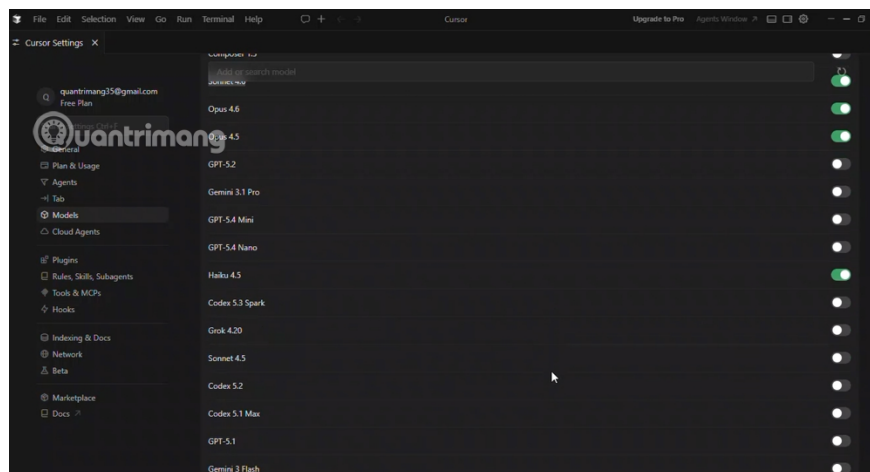


### Step 3: Open Claude Sonnet 4.6/Opus 4.6:

Find the correct name of the latest Claude model and flip the switch to **On** to activate it.



**Step 4: Save and close:** Close the settings tab for the changes to take effect immediately.



### 3. Cursor Rules: The secret to Claude writing code that better matches your preferences.

A significant change in recent Cursor updates is the addition of **Cursor Rules** (usually located in a file `.cursorrules`).

Instead of repeatedly specifying code style requirements, you can define rules in this file. For example, if you're working with n8n, you can instruct Claude to always use the latest JavaScript syntax or prioritize specific function nodes. When Claude 4.6 reads these rules, its compliance is almost absolute compared to older models.

### 4. How to optimize the context when chatting with Claude in Cursor

To ensure Claude 4.6 not only writes correct code but also understands the entire project, you should utilize keyboard shortcuts and special characters:

1. **Use the colon symbol @:** This is the quickest way to bring a file, folder, or document (Docs) into the context of the question.

2. **Composer mode (Ctrl + I):** This is where Claude 4.6 truly shines. It can write to multiple files simultaneously and make complex changes to your entire codebase instead of just fixing a small section of code.
3. **File sorting logic:** As with the natural file sorting code we discussed, keeping the directory structure clear helps AI "read" the project much faster.

## 5. Comparing Claude Sonnet 4.6 and Claude Opus 4.6: Which version should you use?



The choice between Sonnet and Opus depends on the specific needs of each task:

1. **Claude Sonnet 4.6:** A workhorse for everyday tasks. It's incredibly fast, intelligent, and uses fewer tokens (for the tiered paid plan). Suitable for writing functions, debugging, and explaining code.
2. **Claude Opus 4.6:** The "brain" for extremely difficult problems. If you're facing a system logic error that Sonnet hasn't solved, or need to design the entire application architecture from scratch, Opus will provide greater depth and creativity.

## 6. Conclusion

Integrating Claude 4.6 into Cursor isn't just an upgrade; it's a complete revolution in how you approach programming. With its excellent natural language processing capabilities and superior code generation speed, this duo will help you focus on creative thinking instead of wasting time on repetitive code.

Check your Cursor Settings now to make sure you're not missing out on the power of the latest Claude models!

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