

# Steps to change icons for specific file formats in Windows

Icons make different software packages, folders and file formats easily identifiable visually. You can change icons for shortcuts and folders in Windows 11.

However, Windows does not include any built-in options to customize icons for different file formats, such as PDF, PNG, JPG, MP3, TXT, etc.

However, you can still change the icons for file formats with some third-party software. Types and Default Programs Editor are two desktop applications that include options to change icons for file formats in Windows. Below we look at how you can change the file format icons with those software packages.

## How to change icons for file formats with Types

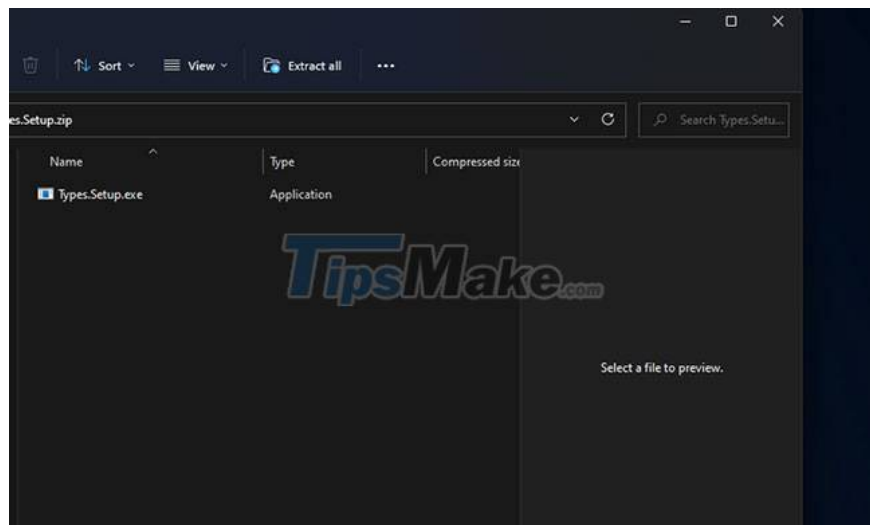
Types is a free desktop application (more specifically donationware) that runs on all Windows platforms dating back to XP. It is a very light program that hardly takes up any hard drive storage space (66KB). You can change icons with Types like this.

Step 1. [Download Types software here](#).

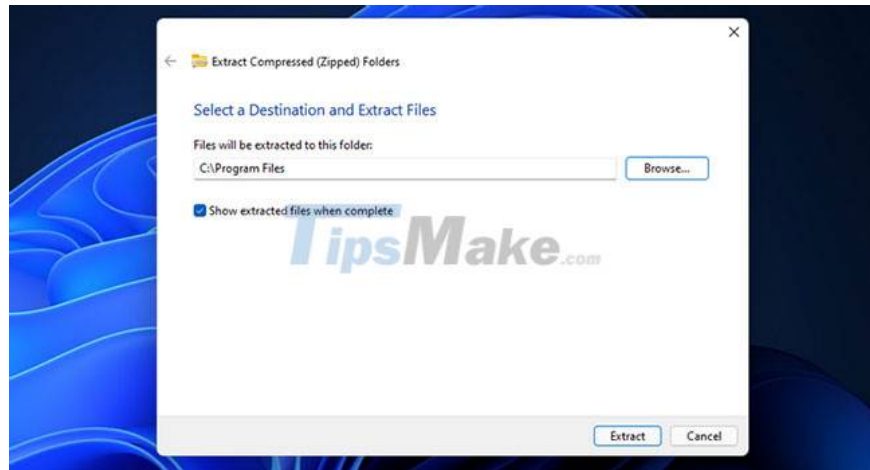
Step 2. Press the Win + E hotkey and open the folder that includes the ZIP Types file in File Explorer.

Step 3. Double-click the zipped ZIP Types archive.

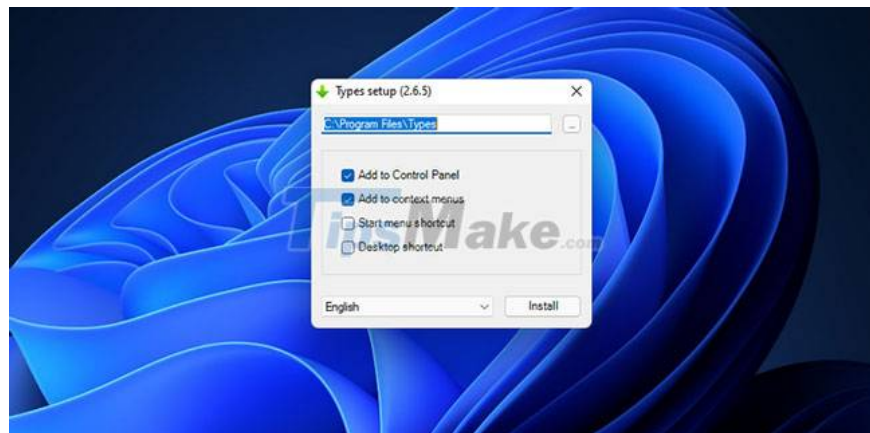
Step 4. Click Extract all on the File Explorer command bar.



Step 5. Select the option Show extracted files and click the Extract button.



Step 6. Double-click Types.Setup.exe to open the window in the snapshot directly below.



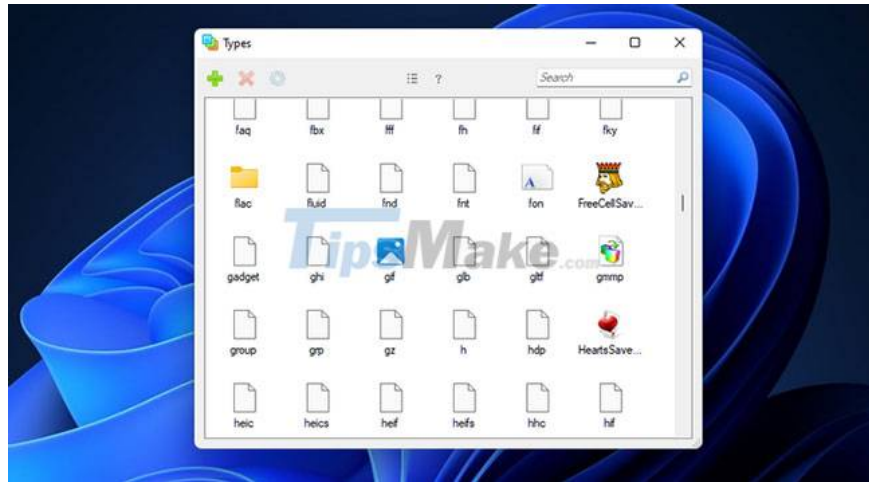
Step 7. Select the Desktop shortcut check box.

Step 8. Click the ... button to change the installation directory if you want.

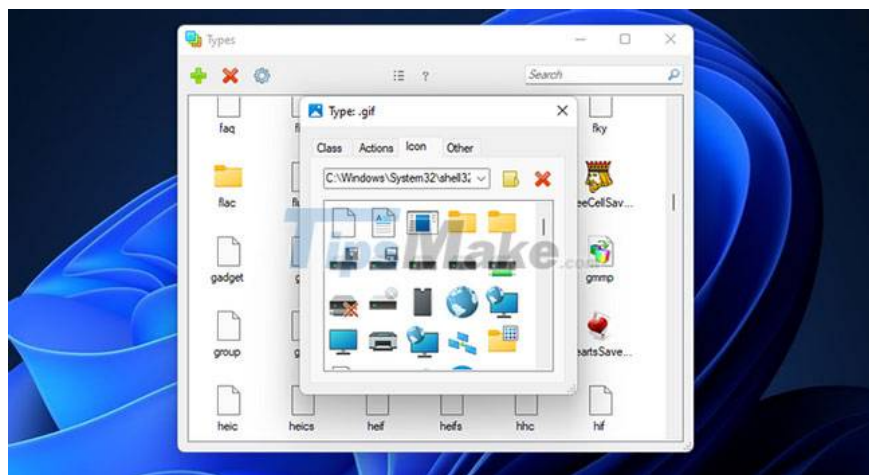
Step 9. Click the Install button.

Step 10. Then double-click the Types shortcut on the desktop.

Step 11. Double-click the file format to change the icon. You can find a specific format by entering the file extension in the search box.



Step 12. Select the Icon tab on the Types window.



Step 13. Choose an alternative icon from the System32 folder. Alternatively, you can click the Select Icon file button to select a file in a different folder.

If Types doesn't include the format you want to change the icon to, click the + button. Enter the format in the text box. Then click on the Add option and select the added format in the window.

## How to change icon for file format using Default Programs Editor

Default Programs Editor is another freely available program with which you can change the file format icons. It is compatible with Windows platforms from XP to Windows 11. Default Programs Editor is also a portable application that you can add to a USB stick. Here's how to change the file format icons with this software.

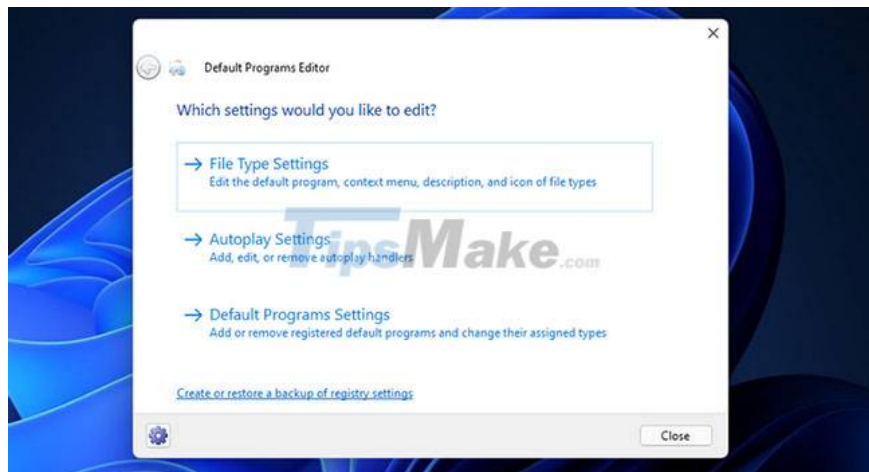
Step 1. [Download Default Programs Editor here.](#)

Step 2. Double-click the Default Programs Editor ZIP archive in File Explorer.

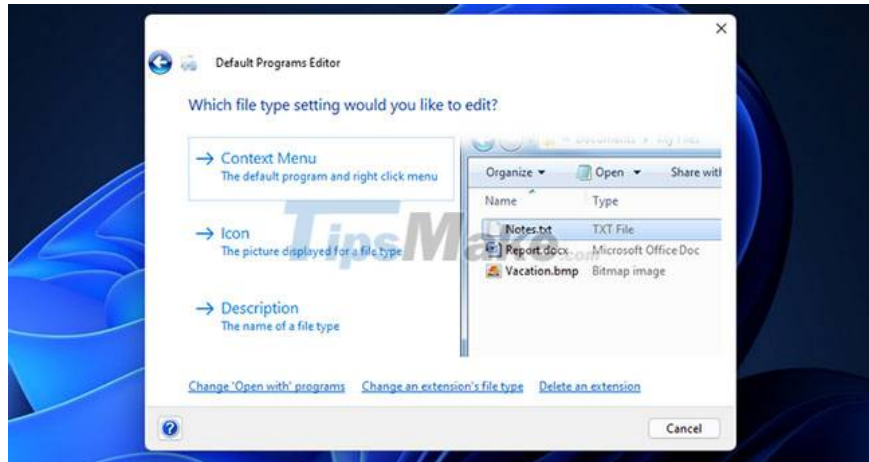
Step 3. Extract the Default Programs Editor ZIP file as stated in the previous method.

Step 4. Then double-click Default Programs Editor.exe in the extracted folder to open the software.

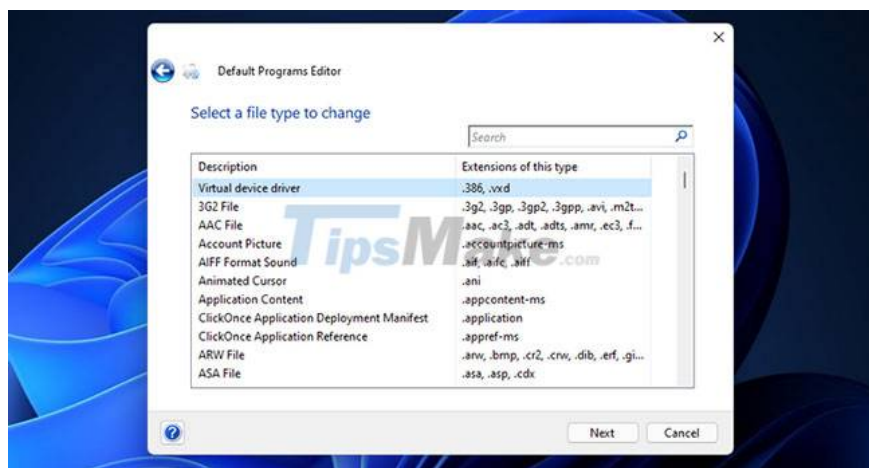
Step 5. Click File Type Settings in the Default Program Editor window.



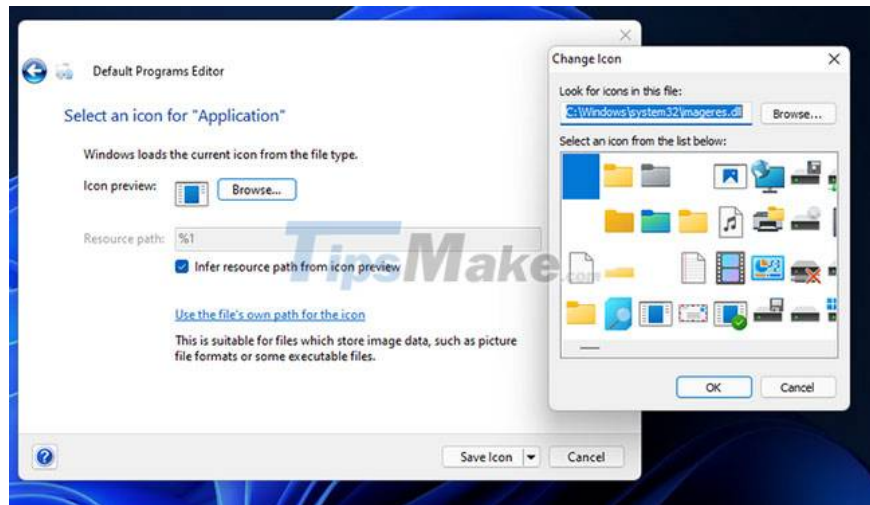
Step 6. Select the Icon option.



Step 7. Select a file format to customize the icon in the list and click Next button.



Step 8. Click Browse to open the Change Icon window.



Step 9. You can choose another icon in the default System32 folder. Or click Browse to select an icon in another folder.

Step 10. Click OK on the Change Icon window.

Step 11. Click the Save Icon button.

Step 12. The default program editor also has other options. You can select Context Menu to customize context menu options for file formats. Select Autoplay Settings to configure autoplay options for different types of media files. The Default Programs Setting option allows you to modify the file extensions associated with software packages.

It's quick and simple to change file format icons using both Types and Default Programs Editor. Since Default Programs Editor has more extensive options, some users may prefer this software. Whichever tool you choose, they'll let you create files in Windows 11 with more attractive icons from IconArchive and many other sources. You can even design your own icons for file formats using photo editing software if you like.

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