

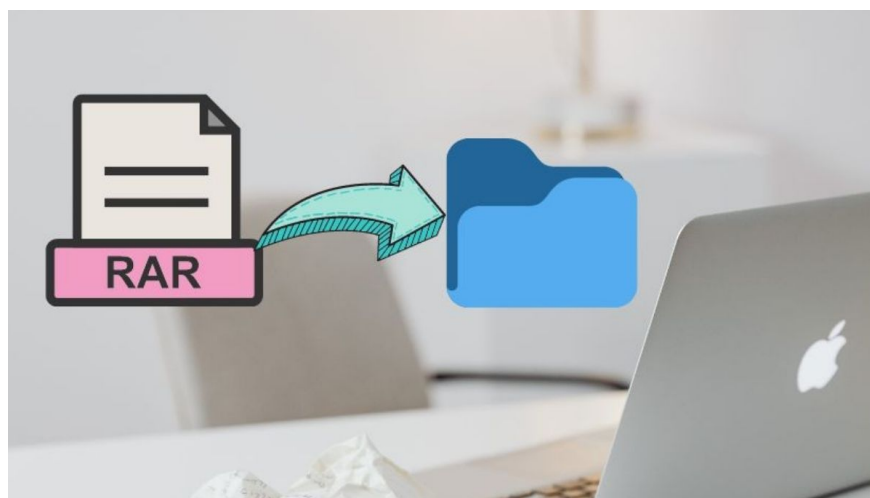
# The easiest way to extract RAR files on a MacBook for free in 2026.

This guide shows you how to quickly and easily extract RAR files on your MacBook using popular tools, saving you time.

If you're new to macOS, opening .rar files can often be confusing. The good news is there are ways to extract RAR files on your MacBook for free, from installing lightweight applications to using online tools.

## Why can't my Macbook open RAR files directly?

Many people think their MacBook is faulty when they click on a RAR file and it won't open, but this is actually a default limitation of macOS. The Archive Utility application, which is pre-installed on the machine, mainly supports ZIP and some common formats. RAR, however, is a proprietary compression format, so it usually requires third-party software to fully read and decompress it.



Therefore, when downloading documents, installers, images, or videos in RAR format, you'll see the file appear normally, but macOS won't automatically extract the contents like it does with ZIP files. Besides not being supported by default, some RAR files are password-protected, split into multiple parts, or created using different compression versions. In these cases, specialized tools are even more necessary to open them correctly and avoid missing file errors.

## Can a MacBook extract RAR files?

Yes. MacBooks can fully extract RAR files, but you need a supporting application like The Unarchiver, Keka, or the command-line tool UnRAR. This is the way to extract RAR files on a MacBook because it's easy to install, supports drag and drop, and is compatible with many operating system versions.



The Unarchiver now offers the ability to open RAR files on Mac and supports macOS 10.13 and later, while Keka also supports RAR extraction on macOS 10.10 and later. You can access the contents of RAR files without incurring the cost of expensive software licenses.

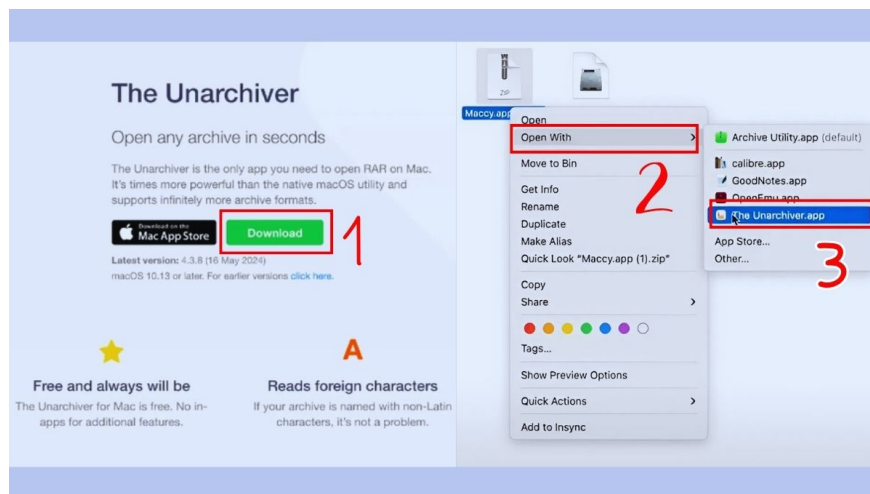
## **How to extract RAR files on a MacBook using free software**

If you frequently download compressed files to your computer, the most stable method is still to install software. Doing so will be faster, less dependent on the internet, and more convenient when handling large or sensitive files.

### **The Unarchiver**

The Unarchiver is a very familiar name to Mac users because of its clean, easy-to-use interface and support for many formats besides RAR. The official website of this tool states that it is an application specifically for opening compressed files on macOS, including RAR.

1. **Step 1:** Download and install The Unarchiver from the official source or the App Store.



1. **Step 2:** Double-click the RAR file, select Open with, and then choose The Unarchiver App.
2. **Step 3:** The application will automatically extract to the same folder location.

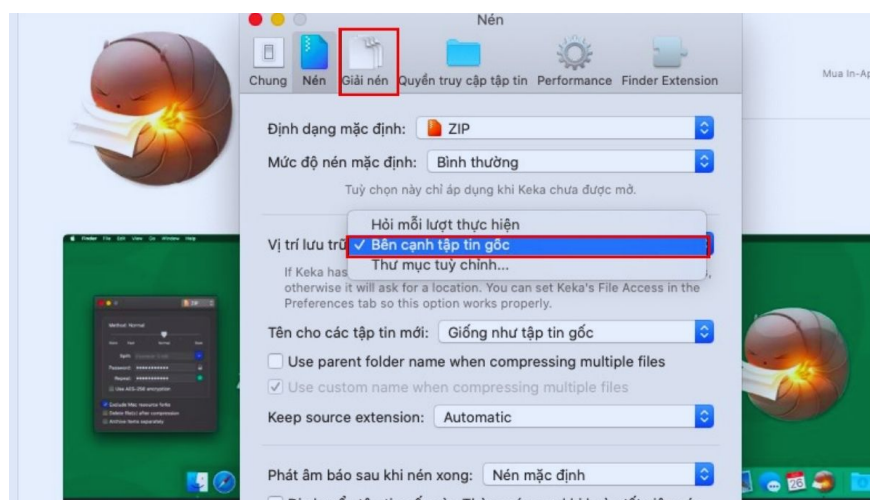
The Unarchiver's advantages include its lightweight design, near-automatic operation, and suitability for users who only need to open files quickly. It's an ideal solution for those who prioritize stability; a single setup ensures reliable use thereafter.

Older MacBooks often lag, have worn-out batteries requiring constant charging, and struggle with file extraction during work. Upgrade to a new MacBook with a powerful M-series chip at a great price, with attractive installment payment options and trade-in programs available at [website/store name].

## Keka software

The official website states that Keka can extract many formats, including RAR, and works across a wide range of macOS. Before you begin, simply install the application and you can set Keka as your default extractor. Then:

1. **Step 1:** Open Keka after installation.



1. **Step 2:** Drag the RAR file into the Keka application window.
2. **Step 3:** Specify the destination folder to store the data, and the system will automatically handle the rest in a few moments.

Keka is suitable for those who want to both compress and decompress files using a single tool. It has an intuitive interface, fast drag-and-drop functionality, and works stably with many types of files downloaded from the internet.

## UnRAR software

If you're familiar with Terminal or need a clean, lightweight, and graphically-free solution, UnRAR is a better choice. RARLAB states that the official toolset for macOS is distributed in RAR/WinRAR packages for their respective platforms.

1. **Step 1:** Download the UnRAR file from the official source.
1. **Step 2:** Open Terminal and navigate to the folder containing the RAR file.
2. **Step 4:** Enter the extraction command, for example, `unrar x filename.rar`.

**Note:** These steps are quite difficult for the average Mac OS user. They require an understanding of the command-line interface (Terminal).

## How to extract RAR files on Mac online without installation.

Online file extractors are the perfect "lifesaver" when you need to process files urgently without encroaching on your computer's memory. This method of extracting RAR files on a MacBook is suitable when you only need to open a few small files.

### Extract using ezyZip

ezyZip is an online tool that allows you to open RAR files directly in your browser. Processing can take place directly in the browser, eliminating the need to upload files to a server in many situations, making it faster and more private than traditional upload methods.

1. **Step 1:** Open the ezyZip RAR extraction page .
1. **Step 2:** Click on **Select Zip file to extract** .
2. **Step 3:** Wait for the tool to read the file contents and choose **to save** each file individually to your computer's hard drive.

This method is ideal for those who prefer a streamlined process and want to avoid cumbersome installation steps. However, for large files or files with multiple parts, the software pre-installed on the computer remains more stable.

### Extract using Extract.me

Extract.me is another fairly easy-to-use web-based tool. Its homepage showcases its ability to extract over 70 compressed file formats, including RAR, ZIP, 7z, tar, dmg, and many others.

1. **Step 1:** Visit Extract.me.
1. **Step 2:** Upload the file from your computer, or choose from Google Drive, Dropbox, or a URL if available.

1. **Step 3:** Wait for the website to process and download each file you need, or download them all together as a ZIP file.

Extract.me is suitable when you need to quickly view the contents of a compressed file without installing any software. However, for internal documents or personal files, it's safer to extract them offline on your computer.

## Why do extracted RAR files often have Vietnamese font errors?

Vietnamese font errors after extracting files usually don't originate from the MacBook but from the file source. Many compressed files contain documents using outdated character encodings like TCVN3, VNI, or filenames created on systems other than the Unicode standard that are not yet standardized. When extracted on a Mac, you may see filenames displaying incorrect diacritics or documents opening with character errors.

Additionally, if the RAR file contains outdated fonts, Word documents or design files may display incorrectly after opening because the computer doesn't have the correct font set. The solution is to check the character encoding using a conversion tool, install the correct Vietnamese fonts, and ask the sender to recompress the file using Unicode names if possible.

## Common errors encountered when extracting RAR files on MacBook

When practicing how to extract RAR files on a MacBook, you'll often encounter some recurring errors. Below are each situation, along with its cause and solution, to help you work faster.

### Unable to open RAR files on Mac after extraction.

This is a fairly common error where a file has been successfully extracted but still doesn't play as expected. Usually, the cause lies in the file format itself, not the extraction process.

1. **Reason:** The file inside is in an unusual format that the default macOS application doesn't support, or the file extension has changed.
2. **Solution:** Check the actual file extension and try opening it with a suitable application such as a PDF reader, VLC, Pages, Word, or a corresponding dedicated app.

### The RAR file is corrupted or damaged.

This often happens with files downloaded from the internet or received through multiple shares. You should check the file source before considering the MacBook as the problem.

1. **Reasons:** Incomplete file download, interrupted file transfer, missing parts in the multi-part compressor, or corrupted original file.
2. **Solution:** Re-download the file from the original source, check that all parts are present, such as .part1.rar and .part2.rar, and try opening it with Keka or UnRAR to see a more detailed error message.

### Password protected RAR file

Some compressed files are password-protected to safeguard their contents. In such cases, you will not be able to fully extract them without the necessary authentication information.

1. **Reason:** The sender set a password to protect the data.
2. **Instructions:** Enter the correct password provided, paying attention to uppercase and lowercase letters, spaces, and using the Vietnamese input method. If you enter the wrong password multiple times, request that the correct password be resent.

### **Insufficient space to extract.**

This error is common when the compressed file appears small but the data after extraction is much larger. The MacBook will not be able to complete the process if there is not enough free memory.

1. **Reason:** The amount of free space on your MacBook is less than the total data after extracting the file.
2. **Solution:** Delete temporary files, move data to an external drive or iCloud, then re-extract it to a folder with more space.

With the right tools, extracting RAR files on a MacBook is actually quite simple. You should prioritize free software installed on your machine if you use it frequently; online tools should only be used when you need to open files quickly.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Is there a fee for extracting RAR files on a MacBook?

Usually not. You can use The Unarchiver or Keka to extract RAR files on your Mac online for free.

Is it possible to extract RAR files on an iPhone/iPad like on a Macbook?

It's possible, but the method is slightly different. Some developers, like The Unarchiver, offer apps to view and open compressed files on iPhone and iPad; Keka also has an iOS version.

You finished reading the article "**The easiest way to extract RAR files on a MacBook for free in 2026.**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.