Black Python formatter

CONCEPTS

Black is opinionated: few options, same output for everyone. Pin the version in your project, since style can change between releases.

Source files .py .pyi .ipynb
↓ parse
Black config + CLI flags
↓ reformat
Equivalence check AST must match
↓ write
Formatted files exit 0 / 1 / 123

Precedence: built-in defaults < pyproject.toml < command-line flags.

RUN

black .
Format all files under the current dir

black *<file.py> <dir>*
Format given files and folders

black --check .
Exit 1 if anything would change

black --diff .
Print the changes, write nothing

black --check --diff .
Show what a CI failure is about

black --diff --color .
Colored diff

black -q .
Only print errors

black -v .
Report ignored and unchanged files

black --version
Print the installed version

STYLE OPTIONS

black -l *<n>* **.**
Maximum line length (default 88)

black -t *<py311>* **.**
Target Python version (repeatable)

black -S .
Keep string quotes as they are

STYLE OPTIONS (cont.)

black -C .
Ignore magic trailing commas

black --preview .
Try upcoming style changes

FILES AND STDIN

black -
Read stdin, write formatted code to stdout

black -c "*<code>***"**
Format a code string

black --stdin-filename *<path>* **-**
Name stdin so excludes apply

black --extend-exclude '*<regex>***' .**
Skip more paths, keep defaults

black --exclude '*<regex>***' .**
Replace the default exclusions

black --force-exclude '*<regex>***' .**
Exclude even explicitly passed files

black --line-ranges *<1-20> <file>*
Format only these lines (repeatable)

Black already skips .git, .venv, venv, build, dist, the tool caches and anything in .gitignore.

CONFIG

[tool.black]
Settings table in pyproject.toml

black --config *<file>* **.**
Use exactly this config file

black --required-version *<26>* **.**
Fail if Black's version differs

Common pyproject keys

Key	Same as
line-length	-l
target-version	-t (a list)
skip-string-normalization	-S
extend-exclude	--extend-exclude
required-version	--required-version

CONFIG (cont.)

Black searches upward from the paths you pass and stops at a pyproject.toml with [tool.black], or at .git/.hg. Only one config file is used.

IGNORING CODE

 # fmt: skip
Leave this line alone

 # fmt: off
Start an unformatted region

 # fmt: on
End the region

fmt: off and fmt: on must sit at the same indentation level in the same block.

 # fmt: skip # noqa
Combine with other pragmas

EXIT CODES

Code	Meaning
0	Done, or nothing to change with --check
1	--check: files would be reformatted
123	Internal error

RECIPES

pyproject.toml

```
[tool.black]
line-length = 100
target-version = ['py311']
extend-exclude = '''
/(\.tox|migrations)/
'''
```

CI gate

```
black --check --diff .
```

Format only changed files

```
git diff --name-only --diff-filter=d -- '*.py' | xargs black
```

Pre-commit hook

```
# .pre-commit-config.yaml
repos:
  - repo: https://github.com/psf/black-pre-commit-mirror
    rev: 26.10.1
    hooks:
      - id: black
```