Homebrew Package manager

CONCEPTS

A formula is a command-line package built or poured from a bottle; a cask is a prebuilt GUI app or binary (macOS mostly).

Taps homebrew-core, cask
↓ `brew update`
Formula or cask recipe
↓ `brew install`
Cellar versioned files
↓ `link`
Prefix bin on your PATH

install and upgrade usually run update first, so a fresh brew update is rarely needed before them.

INSTALL AND REMOVE

`brew install <formula>`
Install a command-line package

`brew install --cask <cask>`
Install a GUI app

`brew uninstall <name>`
Remove a package

`brew reinstall <name>`
Remove and install again

`brew install -n <name>`
Dry run, change nothing

`brew install --build-from-source <formula>`
Compile instead of using a bottle

`brew uninstall --zap --cask <cask>`
Also remove app support files

UPDATE AND UPGRADE

`brew update`
Fetch latest formulae and casks

`brew outdated`
List packages with newer versions

`brew upgrade`
Upgrade all outdated packages

`brew upgrade <name>`
Upgrade one package

`brew upgrade -n`
Preview what would upgrade

`brew upgrade --cask --greedy`
Include casks that self-update

UPDATE AND UPGRADE (cont.)

`brew pin <formula>`
Hold at the current version

`brew unpin <formula>`
Allow upgrades again

SEARCH AND INSPECT

`brew search <text>`
Search formulae and casks

`brew search --desc <text>`
Search descriptions too

`brew info <name>`
Version, deps, caveats, install state

`brew list`
List installed formulae and casks

`brew list --versions`
Show installed versions

`brew list --cask`
List installed casks only

`brew leaves`
Packages you installed directly

`brew deps --tree <name>`
Dependency tree

`brew uses --installed <name>`
Installed packages needing this

SERVICES

`brew services list`
Services and their status

`brew services start <formula>`
Run now and at login/boot

`brew services stop <formula>`
Stop and unregister

`brew services restart <formula>`
Stop and start again

`brew services run <formula>`
Run now, not at login/boot

Without sudo a service is per-user (launchd or systemd user unit); with sudo it is system-wide.

TAPS

`brew tap`
List added taps

TAPS (cont.)

`brew tap <user>/<repo>`
Add a third-party repository

`brew untap <user>/<repo>`
Remove a tap

`brew install <user>/<repo>/<formula>`
Install from a tap in one step

CLEANUP AND DOCTOR

`brew cleanup`
Delete old versions and stale downloads

`brew cleanup -n`
Show what cleanup would delete

`brew autoremove`
Remove unneeded dependencies

`brew doctor`
Diagnose common problems

`brew config`
Print setup info for bug reports

`brew --prefix`
Show the install prefix

BREWFILE (BUNDLE)

`brew bundle dump`
Write installed state to Brewfile

`brew bundle`
Install everything in the Brewfile

`brew bundle check`
Are all entries satisfied?

`brew bundle list`
List what the Brewfile declares

`brew bundle cleanup`
Show extras not in the Brewfile

`brew bundle --file=<path>`
Use a specific Brewfile

Brewfile

```
tap "<user>/<repo>"
brew "<formula>"
cask "<cask>"
```

RECIPES

Weekly maintenance

```
brew update
brew outdated
brew upgrade
brew autoremove
brew cleanup
```