rustup Rust toolchain manager

START HERE

`rustup update`
Update all toolchains

`rustup override set <toolchain>`
Pin this directory

`rustup toolchain install <toolchain>`
Install a toolchain

`cargo +<toolchain> <cmd>`
One-off toolchain

`rustup default <toolchain>`
Set the global default

`rustup component add <name>`
Add clippy, rustfmt and more

`rustup show`
What is active, and why?

`rustup target add <target>`
Cross-compile support

Channel stable / beta / nightly → `install` → **Toolchain** channel + date + host → `component add` → **Components** clippy, rustfmt, ... → `target add` → **Targets** std per platform

CONCEPTS

rustup is a toolchain multiplexer: rustc and cargo in ~/.cargo/bin are proxies that forward to the active toolchain.

Which toolchain wins (first match)

Source	Example
1. +toolchain argument	`cargo +beta`
2. env RUSTUP_TOOLCHAIN	`=beta`
3. directory override	`override set 1.80`
4. rust-toolchain.toml	`channel = ...`
5. default	`default stable`

Overrides and toolchain files are looked up from the current directory upwards; the nearest one wins.

INSTALL & UPDATE

`rustup update`
Update installed toolchains and rustup

`rustup update stable`
Update only one toolchain

`rustup check`
Check for updates without installing

`rustup self update`
Update rustup itself only

`rustup update --no-self-update`
Skip the rustup self-update (CI)

`rustup completions <shell>`
Print shell completions

`rustup self uninstall`
Remove rustup and all toolchains

`rustup man <command>`
Open the man page of a tool

TOOLCHAINS

`rustup toolchain install <toolchain>`
Install a toolchain
Name form: <channel>[-<date>][-<host>], e.g. nightly-2026-01-15 or stable-msvc.

`rustup toolchain list`
List installed toolchains

`rustup toolchain uninstall <toolchain>`
Remove a toolchain

TOOLCHAINS (cont.)

`rustup toolchain install <toolchain> --profile minimal`
Install without docs and extras

`rustup toolchain install <toolchain> -c <component> -t <target>`
Install with components and targets

`rustup toolchain install 1.80`
Install a specific version

`rustup toolchain link <name> <path>`
Register a local custom build

`rustup set profile <profile>`
Profile for future installs
minimal = rustc, rust-std, cargo; default adds rust-docs, rustfmt, clippy; complete is not recommended.

`rustup toolchain install nightly --allow-downgrade`
Newest nightly that has the components

DEFAULT & OVERRIDES

`rustup default <toolchain>`
Set the global default toolchain

`rustup default`
Print the current default

`rustup override set <toolchain>`
Pin a toolchain for this directory

`rustup override unset`
Remove this directory's override

`rustup override list`
List all directory overrides

`rustup show`
Active toolchain, installed ones, why

`rustup show active-toolchain`
Print only the active toolchain

`rustup which <command>`
Path of the binary that would run

For teams, commit a rust-toolchain.toml instead of using overrides: it travels with the repo.

RUN WITH A TOOLCHAIN

`cargo +<toolchain> <command>`
Run cargo with another toolchain once
Works for any proxy: rustc +nightly --version.

`cargo +nightly fmt`
Example: nightly-only rustfmt options

`rustup run <toolchain> <command>`
Run any command in a toolchain

`RUSTUP_TOOLCHAIN=<toolchain> <command>`
Pick a toolchain via environment

A +toolchain argument wins over everything, including rust-toolchain.toml.

COMPONENTS

`rustup component list`
Available and installed components

`rustup component list --installed`
Only installed components

`rustup component add <component>`
Add a component

`rustup component add <component> --toolchain <toolchain>`
Add to another toolchain

`rustup component remove <component>`
Remove a component

`rustup component add rust-src`
Std source for IDEs and build-std

`rustup component add rust-analyzer`
Language server for editors

`rustup component add clippy rustfmt`
Linter and formatter

`rustup doc --std`
Open the offline std docs
Needs the rust-docs component (in the default profile).

TARGETS

`rustup target list`
All available targets

TARGETS (cont.)

`rustup target list --installed`
Targets you have installed

`rustup target add <target>`
Install std for a target

`rustup target add <target> --toolchain <toolchain>`
Add to another toolchain

`cargo build --target <target>`
Build for that target

`rustup target add wasm32-unknown-unknown`
WebAssembly

`rustup target add x86_64-unknown-linux-musl`
Static Linux binaries

A target only brings std; you usually still need a linker, configured per target in Cargo's config.

PIN A PROJECT

rust-toolchain.toml

```
[toolchain]
channel = "1.80"
components = ["rustfmt", "clippy"]
targets = ["wasm32-unknown-unknown"]
profile = "minimal"
```

Missing toolchain, components and targets are installed automatically the next time you run cargo or rustc there.

RECIPES

Try your crate on nightly

```
rustup toolchain install nightly --profile minimal
cargo +nightly test
# nothing global changed
```

Minimal CI toolchain

```
rustup toolchain install stable --profile minimal -c clippy -c rustfmt --no-self-update
rustup default stable
```

Cross-compile for musl

```
rustup target add x86_64-unknown-linux-musl
cargo build --release --target x86_64-unknown-linux-musl
ls target/x86_64-unknown-linux-musl/release
```

Test against an old Rust

```
rustup toolchain install 1.75 --profile minimal
cargo +1.75 check
# or: rustup override set 1.75
```