Visual Studio Windows IDE shortcuts

START HERE

- **Ctrl** + **T** — Go to anything
- **Ctrl** + **Q** — Search Visual Studio
- **Ctrl** + **.** — Quick actions
- **F12** — Go to definition
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **B** — Build solution
- **F5** — Start debugging
- **F9** — Toggle breakpoint
- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **C** — Comment selection

Solution .sln / .slnx, what you open
Project builds one assembly or app
Item source file, resource, config

CONCEPTS

Ctrl+Q finds any menu command, option or setting by name: use it when a shortcut slips your mind.

Chords like Ctrl+K Ctrl+C: press Ctrl+K, release, press Ctrl+C. Keys shown are the General profile; other profiles (e.g. Visual C#) differ.

Look up or rebind any shortcut under Tools > Options > Environment > Keyboard.

FILES & PROJECTS

- **Ctrl** + **S** — Save
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **S** — Save all
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **N** — New project
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **O** — Open project or solution
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **A** — Add new item to project

SEARCH

- **Ctrl** + **F** — Quick find in file

Enter / Shift+Enter cycle the matches; Esc closes.

SEARCH (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + **H** — Quick replace

Alt+R replaces next, Alt+A replaces all.

- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **F** — Find in files
- **Ctrl** + **;** — Search Solution Explorer

GO TO

- **Ctrl** + **T** / **Ctrl** + **,** — Go to all: files, types, members

Prefix f, t, m, # or : to filter; CamelCase capitals match.

- **Ctrl** + **G** — Go to line
- **Ctrl** + **1** › **Ctrl** + **F** — Go to file

NAVIGATE CODE

- **F12** — Go to definition

Ctrl+Click on a symbol does the same.

- **Shift** + **F12** — Find all references
- **Ctrl** + **-** / **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **-** — Navigate back / forward
- **Ctrl** + **F12** — Go to implementation
- **Alt** + **F12** — Peek definition inline

Esc closes; Ctrl+Alt+Home opens it as a tab.

NAVIGATE CODE (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **T** — Call hierarchy

EDIT

- **Ctrl** + **Z** / **Ctrl** + **Y** — Undo / redo
- **Alt** + **Up** / **Alt** + **Down** — Move line up / down
- **Ctrl** + **D** — Duplicate line or selection
- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **C** — Comment selection
- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **U** — Uncomment selection
- **Ctrl** + **/** — Toggle line comment

Since 2022 17.11; Ctrl+K Ctrl+/ works in older builds.

- **Ctrl** + **L** — Cut line
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **L** — Delete line
- **Ctrl** + **M** › **Ctrl** + **M** — Toggle fold at cursor

INTELLISENSE

- **Ctrl** + **Space** — Complete word
- **Ctrl** + **J** — List members
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **Space** — Parameter info

MULTI-CARET

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **Click** — Add a caret
- **Shift** + **Alt** + **.** — Add caret at next match
- **Shift** + **Alt** + **;** — Add carets at all matches
- **Shift** + **Alt** + **Arrows** — Box (column) selection

Or hold Alt and drag with the mouse.

REFACTOR & FORMAT

- **Ctrl** + **.** — Quick actions and refactorings

Fixes, using directives, generate code, extract.

- **Ctrl** + **R** › **Ctrl** + **R** — Rename symbol

Updates every reference across the solution.

- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **D** — Format document
- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **E** — Run code cleanup

Applies the cleanup profile; honours .editorconfig.

- **Ctrl** + **K** › **Ctrl** + **F** — Format selection
- **Ctrl** + **R** › **Ctrl** + **M** — Extract method

REFACTOR & FORMAT (cont.)

- **Ctrl** + **R** › **Ctrl** + **G** — Remove and sort usings

BUILD, RUN & TEST

- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **B** — Build solution
- **F5** — Start with debugger
- **Ctrl** + **F5** — Start without debugging
- **Shift** + **F5** — Stop debugging
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **F5** — Restart
- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **P** — Attach to process
- **Ctrl** + **R** › **T** — Run tests in context

Runs the test or class under the cursor.

- **Ctrl** + **R** › **A** — Run all tests

DEBUG

- **F9** — Toggle breakpoint

Right-click the red dot for conditions and actions.

Stepping

Key	Action
`F10`	Step over
`F11`	Step into
`Shift+F11`	Step out
`Ctrl+F10`	Run to cursor

DEBUG (cont.)

- **Shift** + **F9** — QuickWatch on expression
- **Ctrl** + **F9** — Enable / disable breakpoint
- **Ctrl** + **Shift** + **F9** — Delete all breakpoints
- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **I** — Immediate window

Type ?expr to print a value, >cmd to run a command.

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **C** — Call stack

WINDOWS & TABS

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **L** — Solution Explorer
- **Ctrl** + **** › **Ctrl** + **E** — Error List
- **Ctrl** + **Tab** — Switch open documents

Keep Ctrl held to pick from the switcher.

- **Ctrl** + **F4** — Close document

Ctrl+W also closes it in the General profile.

- **Ctrl** + **Alt** + **O** — Output window
- **F4** — Properties window
- **Ctrl** + **0** › **Ctrl** + **G** — Git Changes