



# How to Export a Family Tree Maker File to GEDCOM Format

If you use [Family Tree Maker software](#) to manage your genealogy research, there may come a time when you need to share your family tree with others or move it to a different program. One of the easiest ways to do this is by exporting your tree to **GEDCOM format**. GEDCOM is a universal file type supported by almost every genealogy tool, including online platforms and desktop applications.

In this guide, you'll learn **how to export a Family Tree Maker file to GEDCOM format** step-by-step. This method works on **FTM 2019**, **FTM 2022**, and [FTM 2024 \(Ftm 2024\)](#).

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## What Is a GEDCOM File?

A GEDCOM (.ged) file is a standardized format used to store and exchange family tree information.

It allows you to:

- Move your tree to another genealogy software
- Upload your tree to online research websites
- Share your data with friends, family, or other researchers
- Safely back up your research work

Because GEDCOM is universally supported, exporting your FTM tree into this format makes your data much more flexible.

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## How to Export a Family Tree Maker File to GEDCOM (Step-by-Step Guide)

Follow these simple steps to export your family tree from FTM:

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### Step 1: Open Family Tree Maker Software

Launch **Family Tree Maker software** on your computer.

Make sure the tree you want to export is fully loaded and synced if you use Ancestry or FamilySearch.

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## Step 2: Select the Tree You Want to Export

From the *Plan Workspace*, choose the family tree you want to export. If you have multiple trees, ensure you're working on the correct one.

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## Step 3: Go to the Export Option

1. Click **File** in the top menu.
  2. Select **Export** from the dropdown.
  3. A new export window will appear.
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## Step 4: Choose GEDCOM Format

Inside the export window:

- Select **GEDCOM 5.5** or **GEDCOM 5.5.1** under *Output Format*.
  - Make sure to select "Entire File" unless you want to export specific individuals.
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## Step 5: Set Export Preferences

You'll see several options for data export. Here's what to choose:

- **Character Set:** UTF-8 (recommended)
- **Include Media:** Optional (GEDCOM does not store actual photos; it only stores links)
- **Privatization Options:** Choose if you want to hide details of living individuals

Click **OK** when you're done.

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## Step 6: Save Your GEDCOM File

You will be asked to choose a location to save the file.

- Enter a file name
- Choose where you want to store it (Desktop, Documents, or an external drive)
- Click **Save**

Your GEDCOM file will be created within a few seconds.

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# Why Export Your Tree to GEDCOM?

Exporting your FTM tree to a GEDCOM file can be useful in many ways:

## ✓ Move to Another Software

If you ever decide to [upgrade Family Tree Maker 2024](#), move to another version, or test different programs, GEDCOM makes migration easy.

## ✓ Share with Family Members

Anyone can open a GEDCOM file using free genealogy tools.

## ✓ Create Backups

Even if you regularly back up FTM, a GEDCOM copy gives you an additional layer of protection.

## ✓ Upload to Online Platforms

Sites like Ancestry, MyHeritage, and FamilySearch support GEDCOM uploads.

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# Common Issues and Solutions When Exporting GEDCOM

## 1. Media Files Not Showing

GEDCOM files do not store images—they only store links.

To share images, send the "Media" folder along with the GEDCOM file.

## 2. Export Takes Too Long

Large trees with thousands of people may take extra time.

Close all other programs before exporting.

## 3. Errors During Export

If you face technical issues, contacting [Family Tree Maker support](#) is recommended. Support teams can check if your tree has corrupted data or missing files.

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# Tips Before Exporting Your Tree

- Sync your tree if it's linked to Ancestry
- Run the **Tree Check** tool to fix errors
- Back up your tree before exporting
- Make sure your system is updated

If needed, you can [Download Family Tree Maker](#) updates or patches from the official website before exporting.

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## Conclusion

Exporting a Family Tree Maker file to **GEDCOM format** is simple and extremely useful for sharing, backing up, or moving your genealogy research. Whether you are using FTM 2019, 2022, or the latest **Ftm 2024**, the steps remain almost the same.

If you need more help with exporting, installation, or want to **upgrade Family Tree Maker 2024**, don't hesitate to reach out or explore more guides.