

Homebrew is a free and open-source software package management system that simplifies the installation of software on Apple's operating system, macOS, as well as Linux.

Basic Syntax

Brew is a command-line utility that has a straightforward syntax.

```
brew --version
```

The above command will display the currently installed version of brew. Whereas all other commands use the following syntax:

```
brew command [--verbose|-v] [options] [formula] ...
```

Terminology

formula

Homebrew package definition that builds from upstream sources.

cask

Homebrew package definition that installs macOS native applications

keg

Installation destination directory of a given formula version, e.g. `/usr/local/Cellar/foo/0.1`

rack

Directory containing one or more versioned kegs, e.g. `/usr/local/Cellar/foo`

opt prefix

A symlink to the active version of a keg, e.g. `/usr/local/opt/foo`

cellar

Directory containing one or more named racks, e.g. `/usr/local/Cellar`

caskroom

Directory containing one or more named casks, e.g. `/usr/local/Caskroom`

tap

Directory (and usually Git repository) of formulae and casks

Essential Commands

`brew install formula`

Install the named *formula*.

`brew uninstall formula`

Uninstalls the named *formula*.

`brew list [options] [installed_formula]`

Lists all installed formulae.

```
--versions
```

Show the version number for installed formulae, or only the specified formulae if *formula* are provided.

`brew search [text]/text/`

Perform a substring search of *cask* tokens and *formula* names for *text*. If *text* is flanked by slashes, it is interpreted as a regular expression.

`brew update`

Fetch the newest version of Homebrew and all formulae from GitHub using git and perform any necessary migrations.

`brew upgrade [formula]cask`

Upgrade outdated casks and outdated, unpinned formulae using the same options they were originally installed with, plus any appended brew formula options. If *cask* or *formula* are specified, upgrade only the given *cask* or *formula* kegs (unless they are pinned; see pin, unpin).

Advanced Commands

`brew autoremove [--dry-run]`

Uninstall formulae that were only installed as a dependency of another formula and are now no longer needed.

`brew casks`

List all locally installable casks including short names.

`brew cleanup [options] [formula]cask`

Remove stale lock files and outdated downloads for all formulae and casks and remove old versions of installed formulae. If arguments are specified, only do this for the given formulae and casks.

```
--prune
```

Remove all cache files older than specified *days*. If you want to remove everything, use `--prune=all`.

```
-n, --dry-run
```

```
-s, --scrub
```

Scrub the cache, including downloads for even the latest versions.

`brew deps [options] [formula]cask`

Show dependencies for *formula*. When given multiple *formula* arguments, show the intersection of dependencies for each formula.

```
--direct
```

Show only the direct dependencies declared in the *formula*.

```
--full-name
```

List dependencies by their full name.

```
--installed
```

List dependencies for formulae that are currently installed.

```
--missing
```

Show only missing dependencies.

`brew desc [options] formulacasktext/|regex/`

Display *formula*'s name and one-line description. The cache is created on the first search, making that search slower than subsequent ones.

```
-s, --search
```

Search both names and descriptions for *text*. If *text* is flanked by slashes, it is interpreted as a regular expression.

```
-n, --name
```

Search just names for *text*. If *text* is flanked by slashes, it is interpreted as a regular expression.

```
-d, --description
```

Search just descriptions for *text*. If *text* is flanked by slashes, it is interpreted as a regular expression.

`brew pin installed_formula`

Pin the specified *formula*, preventing them from being upgraded when issuing the `brew upgrade formula` command.

`brew unpin installed_formula`

Unpin *formula*, allowing them to be upgraded by `brew upgrade formula`.

Further Information

The commands above are a small selection of those available for brew. For a full reference of commands and their options, please refer to the documentation pages:

<https://docs.brew.sh/Manpage>