

System Requirements

32-Bit 3ds Max or 3ds Max Design for Windows

Operating system: Microsoft® Windows® 7 Professional, Microsoft® Windows Vista® Business (SP2 or higher), or Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional (SP2 or higher)

For general animation and rendering (typically fewer than 1,000 objects or 100,000 polygons):

- Intel® Pentium® 4 1.4 GHz or equivalent AMD® processor with SSE2 technology*
- 2 GB RAM (4 GB recommended)
- 2 GB swap space (4 GB recommended)**
- 3 GB free hard drive space
- Direct3D® 10 technology, Direct3D 9, or OpenGL®-capable graphics card† (256 MB or higher video card memory, 1 GB or higher recommended)
- Three-button mouse with mouse driver software
- DVD-ROM drive††
- Microsoft® Internet Explorer® 7.0 or higher or Mozilla® Firefox® 2.0 or higher browser
- Internet connection for web downloads and Autodesk® Subscription-aware access

64-Bit 3ds Max or 3ds Max Design for Windows

Operating system: Microsoft Windows 7 Professional x64, Microsoft Windows Vista Business x64 (SP2 or higher), or Microsoft Windows XP Professional x64 (SP2 or higher)

For general animation and rendering (typically fewer than 1,000 objects or 100,000 polygons):

- Intel 64 or AMD 64 processor with SSE2 technology*
- 4 GB RAM (8 GB recommended)
- 4 GB swap space (8 GB recommended)**
- 3 GB free hard drive space
- Direct3D 10, Direct3D 9, or OpenGL-capable graphics card† (256 MB or higher video card memory, 1 GB recommended)
- Three-button mouse with mouse driver software
- DVD-ROM drive††
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher or Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or higher browser
- Internet connection for web downloads and Autodesk Subscription-aware access

For large scenes and complex data sets (typically more than 1,000 objects or 100,000 polygons):

- Intel® 64 or AMD64 processor with SSE2 technology*
- 8 GB RAM
- 8 GB swap space**
- 3 GB free hard drive space
- Direct3D 10, Direct3D 9, or OpenGL-capable graphics card† (1 GB or higher video card memory)
- Three-button mouse with mouse driver software
- DVD-ROM drive††
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0 or higher or Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or higher browser)
- Internet connection for web downloads and Autodesk Subscription-aware access

3ds Max Composite Functionality on 32- or 64-Bit Operating Systems

The 3ds Max Composite feature requires one of the following 32-bit or 64-bit operating systems:

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional (SP2 or higher)
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional x64 (SP2 or higher)
- Microsoft Windows 7 Professional x64

Media cache hard drive requirements:

- 10 GB minimum, 200 GB recommended
- HDD: IDE, SATA, SATA 2, SAS, SCSI

3ds Max or 3ds Max Design for Macintosh

* Autodesk 3ds Max and 3ds Max Design 2011 have been optimized to take advantage of the SSE2 extended instruction sets supported on Intel Pentium 4 or higher, AMD Athlon™ 64, AMD Opteron™, and AMD Phenom™ processors. Autodesk 3ds Max 2011 will not operate on computers that do not support SSE2. Several utilities are available on the Internet that report CPUID, including supported instructions sets.

** Autodesk recommends settings that allow Windows to manage virtual memory as needed. There should always be at least twice as much free hard disk space as system memory (RAM).

† Some features of 3ds Max and 3ds Max Design 2011 are enabled only when used with graphics hardware that supports Shader Model 3.0 (Pixel Shader and Vertex Shader 3.0). In addition, Quicksilver hardware rendering requires additional GPU resources to work effectively. A minimum of 512 MB of graphics memory should be used. A minimum of 1 GB is recommend for the most complex scenes, shaders, and lighting modes. Check with your manufacturer to determine if your hardware supports these requirements.

Learn more about [graphics hardware compatibility](#).

†† Autodesk 3ds Max and 3ds Max Design 2011 are available only on dual-layer DVD media (or electronic download where available). DVD-ROM drive is not required if installing using electronic download. However, to accommodate the installation files, you will need 9 GB of hard disk space and an additional 16 GB of space for temporary files created during the installation