

Top 10 Reasons to Upgrade from AutoCAD 2005 to AutoCAD 2008

Everyday Tools Are Better Than Before

AutoCAD® 2008 software has all your favorite tools, but now they're better than ever. You'll save time because everyday tasks require fewer steps. AutoCAD 2008 is the first AutoCAD to support the Microsoft® Vista™ family of operating systems and the Intel® and AMD 64 bit chip architectures. This means as you upgrade your hardware, AutoCAD will be ready to run. There have been hundreds of productivity enhancements since the AutoCAD 2005 software was introduced. The list below incorporates some of our customers' favorite new features in AutoCAD 2008 software.

1. Annotation Scaling. AutoCAD now has automated scaling of text, dimension, blocks, hatches and linetypes

- Text height, hatch size is automatically calculated based on drawing scale
- Position and visibility of annotation is controlled based on drawing scale selected.

2. Robust boundary hatching. Boundary hatch improvements enable you to create hatches with greater efficiency.

- Trim - Trim an existing hatch to a new boundary without having to erase and recreate the hatch.
- Hatch area – View the area of a hatch or the cumulative area of multiple hatches using the Properties Window and display the area value as Field text.

3. Dynamic attribute extraction tools. Enhancements to the Attribute Extraction Wizard make it easier for you to utilize and maintain block data.

- Data filters – Exclude blocks without attributes, exclude general block properties, and sort by the type of block properties when specifying the data to extract.
- Table – Extract block data directly to an AutoCAD table and apply table styles.

4. Improved annotation. Significant improvements to text and dimensions enable you to create and edit text and dimensions faster and with more flexibility.

- In-place Text Editing – See exactly what your text looks like in the drawing, while you edit.
- Lists – Create text lists with bullets and sequential numbers or letters.

5. Multiple leaders. Creation and editing of multiple leaders is now easy with the new create and align commands. Multi-leaders styles make consistent use of leaders across projects a breeze.

- Allows definition of – multiple segments, leading or trailing position of text, and leader format.
- Automated alignment of notes and leaders as a group.

6. Conceptual Design and Visualization. Combine your familiar AutoCAD with an updated conceptual design environment. AutoCAD helps you quickly create, edit, and navigate solids and surfaces. New and improved tools for lights, materials, and rendering make creating a photo-real image a breeze. Walk and path animation tools enable you to easily explore and present design alternatives.

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- Dashboard – The easy to use dashboard allows access to all conceptual tools from a single area.
- Conceptual Design - Complete solid and surface modeling entities, including helix, polysolid, and sweeps and lofts.
- Visualization - On screen display modes (includes visual styles, transparency, and edge effects) and photo-real rendering with pre-defined materials libraries.

7. Dynamic Blocks. Powerful Dynamic Block functionality makes working with blocks faster and more efficient. You can properly orient a block reference as you insert it and you can modify its appearance without editing the block definition or erasing and inserting a different block. The flexibility of dynamic blocks provides a powerful and flexible alternative to bloated block libraries containing multiple variations of similar block definitions.

- Block Editor – Create and edit block definitions without having to explode or reference-edit a block reference.
- Block Authoring Tools – Apply parameters and actions to turn traditional block definitions into powerful and flexible Dynamic Blocks.

8. Dynamic Input. The Heads-up Design™ of Dynamic Input provides a simplified command interface near the cursor to help you maintain your focus on the design.

- Pointer Input – Enter command names, view the coordinate values of the crosshairs, and input coordinate values at the cursor location.
- Dimension Input – View and edit distance and angle values directly on the relevant geometry.

9. Streamlined tables. New table functionality enables you to create and modify tables using intuitive and flexible tools.

- Table styles - Pre-assign table properties such as font, colors, and grid lines. This feature streamlines table creation and improves consistency.
- Right-click menu options and the Properties window offer familiar and intuitive tools for adding rows and columns, merging cells, and modifying table properties.

10. Photo-Realistic Rendering. A new rendering engine allows you to quickly set-up and render your model. Show clients your final design vision with a few easy commands.

- Visually place and adjust lights to bring out the best in your design.
- Create the look you want with over 400 predefined materials.
- Quickly and easily create a rendered image with preset rendering styles

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