



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I need to purchase Autodesk Architectural Desktop 2005 in order to run Autodesk Building Systems 2005?

No. Autodesk Building Systems 2005 is built on the same technology as Autodesk® Architectural Desktop 2005—which includes all AutoCAD 2005 functionality—providing an all-in-one MEP solution. You do not need to purchase separate licenses of those products to use Autodesk Building Systems 2005. Of course, in the context of your organization's overall needs, some combination of these products, as well as the Autodesk® Revit®, may be the best solution. Your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller (www.autodesk.com/reseller) can help guide you toward the optimal solution.

2. Does Autodesk Building Systems 2005 include calculation and analysis tools for engineering design?

Yes. The objects and framework in Autodesk Building Systems support engineering calculation and analysis through the use of connection graphs and property sets.

- **Mechanical:** Size duct automatically while laying out ductwork based on traditional duct design methods, equal friction, and static regain.
- **Electrical:** Use circuit tools to automatically total circuit and power loads, generate circuit reports that can be directly exported to a bidirectional Microsoft® Excel spreadsheet where you can quickly size wires, panels, and main service lines, and use the Circuit Manager to automatically flag overloads based on calculated loads and circuit lengths.
- **Plumbing:** Size supply piping (hot and cold domestic water) and sanitary waste with automated tools based on customizable plumbing code and fixture unit pipe-sizing tables.

Autodesk Building Systems 2005 also provides new tools that extract the engineering data from your models in neutral file formats, such as gbXML, and application programming interfaces (API) for interoperability with third-party analysis applications from industry leaders, such as Trane, Elite, GeoPraxis, and Lindab, as well as with Microsoft® Visual Basic®, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft Access. For information about the availability of third-party applications compatible with Autodesk Building Systems 2005, visit www.autodesk.com/partnerproducts.

3. We have recently implemented Building Systems 2004. How much training or retraining is required to effectively use Autodesk Building Systems 2005?

Autodesk Building Systems 2005 builds on concepts introduced in Building Systems 2004, enabling you to implement the new software with little to no retraining. Users proficient in Building Systems 2004 can get up and running immediately with Building Systems 2005. However, you may want to consider some training to take full advantage of the new features such as sheets sets and links to analysis applications.

4. Why should I be interested in the 3D modeling capabilities of Autodesk Building Systems?

As you design with intelligent engineering objects, the data to support a 3D model is automatically generated. Therefore, by creating a 3D model of ductwork, piping, plumbing, and electrical systems, you can check for interference, create an accurate bill of materials, and visualize the interaction between building systems and the building structure. Downstream contractors can use models to create shop drawings, and the building owner can use them for facilities planning and management. Coordinating, communicating, and visualizing designs with accurate 3D models can reduce errors and accelerate the design process.

5. How easy is it to create construction documents?

Autodesk Building Systems display configurations enable you to use the same objects to create single-line, two-line, and reflected ceiling display representations with the click of a button. With automated section and elevation tools, you can create additional views of your building model when a simple plan view isn't accurate. And because you are using the model to create the section, you can be assured that the design data and construction documentation data remain consistent. Setting different views of the same building model gives you customized construction documents without the need to redraw anything, so you can focus on design rather than on tedious drawing work.

6. How can I check for interferences?

There are two ways to check for interferences. The first method is by visually inspecting the 3D model from different perspectives. The second method is by turning on the Interference Detection setting. This tool highlights conflicts between building systems objects and structural members, even across xrefs. This capability is especially helpful for large projects that have extensive building systems.

7. Does the plumbing piping work with plumbing fixtures laid out in Autodesk Architectural Desktop?

Not directly; however, the new MvPart Convert feature enables you to effectively use Autodesk Architectural Desktop drawings, as well as other 2D architectural drawings, by converting blocks into intelligent building system parts, such as fixtures, that can be logically connected to your system designs.

8. Is there an easy way to "flatten" designs so I can share them with project team members who are not using Autodesk Building Systems 2005?

Yes. The Export to AutoCAD feature "flattens" the design to basic AutoCAD entities, making it easy to collaborate with members of your extended design team who may not be using Autodesk Building Systems software. This release supports export to AutoCAD 2004/2005 and AutoCAD 2000 DWG and DXF™ formats, as well as Release 12 DXF, making it possible for users of AutoCAD 2000, 2000i, 2002, and 2004 to open Building Systems 2005 files without using object enablers.

9. Where can I purchase Autodesk Building Systems?

Autodesk Building Systems is available worldwide in Domestic and International English versions, both of which support use of imperial and metric units and provide imperial and metric standard content. Additionally, a U.K. version is available for the Commonwealth market. Contact your local Autodesk Authorized Reseller or Distributor or Autodesk Systems Center for more information. To locate one near you, visit www.autodesk.com/reseller.

Autodesk Building Systems is also available through the Autodesk online store at www.autodesk.com/estore.

10. What are the benefits of subscription for Autodesk Building Systems 2005?

Autodesk Subscription is the easiest way to keep your Building Systems software up-to-date. For an annual fee, subscription provides a budget-conscious way to ensure you are always using the most current technology. Note that subscription is mandatory for the first year when purchasing a new license of Autodesk Building Systems. Benefits of the program include access to all upgrades and extensions that may be released during the subscription term at no additional cost, enabling you to access valuable content and product enhancements in a timely manner.

For added assurance you can choose to purchase Autodesk direct online support. For the latest information on the Autodesk Subscription Program, including availability and purchase requirements, visit www.autodesk.com/subscription or contact your local Autodesk representative.

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