

Defining TODO Patterns and Filters

TODO items in the source code are defined by a certain pattern.



Whenever a pattern is changed, or a new pattern is added, IntelliJ IDEA scans the whole project and rebuilds the index of TODO items. Results display in the [TODO tool window](#), as described in the section [Viewing TODO Items](#).

You might want to view the TODO comments of certain a type, and hide the others. For this purpose, IntelliJ IDEA suggests to use *filters*. This way you can show those items that match certain patterns only.



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To define a TODO pattern, follow these general steps

1. Open the [TODO page](#) of the **Settings** dialog.
2. In the **Patterns** section, click the **Add** button  to create a new pattern, or the **Edit** button  to update an existing one. The [Add/Edit Pattern dialog](#) opens.
3. In the **Pattern** field, enter the regular expression that describes the desired pattern.
4. In the **Icon** list, select the desired icon that will mark the matching TODO items in the [TODO tool window](#).
5. Specify the color and font properties, which IntelliJ IDEA will use to highlight the matching comments in the source code.
6. Select the **Case sensitive** check box, if you want the pattern to be case-sensitive.

To define a filter that will be used to show specific types of TODO items

1. Open the [TODO page](#) of the **Settings** dialog.
2. In the **Filters** section, click click the **Add** button  to create a new filter, or the **Edit** button  to update an existing one.
3. In the [Add/Edit Filter](#) dialog, specify the filter name, and select the patterns to be included in the filter.

See Also

Reference:

- [TODO Tool Window](#)
- [TODO](#)
- [Regular Expression Syntax Reference](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#) 