

Using Bower Package Manager

IntelliJ IDEA provides interface for installing, uninstalling, and upgrading client-side libraries and frameworks for your project using the [Bower Package Manager](#). Alternatively, you can use the tool in the command line mode from the [embedded local terminal](#).

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Preparing to install Bower

1. Download and install [Node.js](#). The framework is required for two reasons:
 - The Bower package manager is started through *Node.js*.
 - *NPM*, which is a part of the framework, is also the easiest way to download the Bower package manager.

For details on using *Node.js* in IntelliJ IDEA, see the section [Node.js](#)

Alternatively, you can define [Node.js](#) as an external tool, as described in the section [Configuring third-party tools](#). This approach is helpful, when you need facilities that are missing in the plugin, for example, the possibility to pass certain parameters as wildcards.

2. If you are going to use the command line mode, make sure the following paths are added to the `PATH` variable:
 1. The path to the parent folder of the *Node.js* executable file.
 2. The path to the `npm` folder.

This enables you to launch the Bower package manager and *npm* from any folder.

3. Install and enable the *NodeJS* repository plugin.

The plugin is not bundled with IntelliJ IDEA, but it is available from the [JetBrains plugin repository](#). Once enabled, the plugin is available at the IDE level, that is, you can use it in all your IntelliJ IDEA projects. See [Installing, Updating and Uninstalling Repository Plugins](#) and [Enabling and Disabling Plugins](#) for details.

Installing Bower

The easiest way to install the Bower package manager is to use the *Node Package Manager (npm)*, which is a part of [Node.js](#).

Depending on the desired location of the Bower package manager executable file, choose one of the following methods:

- Install the package manager *globally* at the IntelliJ IDEA level so it can be used in any IntelliJ IDEA project.
- Install the package manager in a specific project and thus restrict its use to this project.
- Install the package manager in a project as a development dependency.

In either installation mode, make sure that the parent folder of the Bower package manager is added to the `PATH` variable. This enables you to launch the package manager from any folder.

IntelliJ IDEA provides user interface both for *global* and *project* installation as well as supports installation through the command line.

See [Installing and Removing External Software Using Node Package Manager](#) for details.

Installing Bower globally

Global installation makes the package manager available at the IntelliJ IDEA level so it can be used in any IntelliJ IDEA project. Moreover, during installation the parent folder of the package manager is automatically added to the PATH variable, which enables you to launch the package manager from any folder. To install the package manager *globally*, do one of the following:

1. Run the installation from the command line in the *global* mode:
 1. Switch to the directory where *NPM* is stored or define a PATH variable for it so it is available from any folder, see [Installing NodeJs](#).
 2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
npm install -g bower
```

The `-g` key makes the package manager run in the *global* mode. Because the installation is performed through *NPM*, the Bower package manager is installed in the `npm` folder. Make sure this parent folder is added to the PATH variable. This enables you to launch the package manager from any folder.

For more details on the *NPM* operation modes, see [npm documentation](#). For more information about installing the Bower package manager, see <https://npmjs.org/package/bower>.

2. Run *NPM* from IntelliJ IDEA using the **Node.js and NPM** page of the **Settings** dialog box.
 1. [Open the project settings](#) and then click **Node.js and NPM**.
 2. On the **Node.js and NPM** page that opens, the **Packages** area shows all the Node.js-dependent packages that are currently installed on your computer, both at the *global* and at the *project* level. Click **+**.
 3. In the **Available Packages** dialog box that opens, select the `bower` package.
 4. Select the **Options** check box and type `-g` in the text box next to it.
 5. Optionally specify the product version and click **Install Package** to start installation.

Installing Bower in a project

Installing the package manager in a specific project restricts its use to this project. To run *project* installation, do one of the following:

- In the command line mode, switch to the project root folder and type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
npm install bower
```

- Run *NPM* from IntelliJ IDEA using the **Node.js and NPM** page of the **Settings** dialog box.
 1. [Open the project settings](#) and click **Node.js and NPM**.
 2. On the **Node.js and NPM** page that opens, the **Packages** area shows all the Node.js-dependent packages that are currently installed on your computer, both at the *global* and at the *project* level. Click **+**.
 3. In the **Available Packages** dialog box that opens, select the `bower` package.
 4. Optionally specify the product version and click **Install Package** to start installation.

Creating a Bower configuration file `bower.json`

1. In the command line mode, switch to your project directory.
2. Type the following command at the command line prompt:

```
bower init
```

If *Bower* does not start, check the installation: the parent folder or the *Bower* executable file should be specified in the `PATH` variable.

3. Answer the questions to specify the following basic settings:
 - The testing framework to use.
 - The browsers to be captured automatically.
 - The patterns that define the location of test files to be involved in testing or excluded from it. For more details, see [Bower: Configuration](#).For more details, see [Bower: Configuration](#).

Configuring Bower in IntelliJ IDEA

1. Choose **File | Settings**.
2. In the **Settings** dialog box that opens, click **JavaScript**, then click **Bower**.
3. On the **Bower** page that opens, specify the location of the Node.js and Bower executable files and the `bower.json` configuration file.

See Also

Procedures:

- [Installing and Removing External Software Using Node Package Manager](#)

Reference:

- [Bower](#)

Web Resources:

- [Developer Community](#)