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how to set homepage on chrome

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How to Set a Homepage on Chrome: A Step by Step Guide for 2026

Google Chrome is one of the most popular web browsers worldwide, and it's known for its speed, simplicity, and powerful features. One feature that many users want to customize is the **homepage**—the page that loads automatically when you open a new window or click the **New Tab** button. Whether you want to start your day with the latest news, a personal dashboard, or a quick link to your favorite site, setting a homepage in Chrome can streamline your browsing experience. In this guide, we'll walk you through every method you can use to set a homepage on Chrome, troubleshoot common issues, and explore advanced tips for power users.

Why Set a Homepage on Chrome?

Having a dedicated homepage offers several benefits:

- Speedy Access: Quickly reach the site you visit most often without typing a URL.
- Productivity: Keep essential tools, calendars, or project boards front and center.
- Personalization: Create a custom start page that reflects your interests and workflow.
- Consistency: Maintain the same experience across devices if you sync your Chrome settings.

While Chrome doesn't label the feature as "homepage" in the same way that Firefox or Safari does, you can still achieve the same result with a few simple steps.

Method 1: Using the Settings Menu (Chrome 116+)

Starting with Chrome 116, a new settings option called **On startup** allows you to choose a specific page or set of pages to open when you launch the browser. This is the most straightforward way to set a homepage.

Step by Step Instructions

1. Open Chrome. Click the three dot menu in the top right corner.
2. Navigate to Settings. Scroll down or search for "startup" in the search bar.
3. Locate "On startup." You'll see three options: Open the New Tab page, Continue where you left off, and Open a specific page or set of pages.
4. Choose "Open a specific page or set of pages." Click Add a new page or Use current pages if you already have the desired tab open.
5. Enter the URL. Type or paste the address of your chosen homepage (e.g., https://www.nytimes.com).
6. Click Save. Your homepage is now set.

Every time you start Chrome, the selected page will open automatically. If you prefer to keep the default **New Tab** page but also want a quick shortcut to your homepage, you can add a bookmark instead (see Method 3).

Method 2: Using a Bookmark for Quick Access

If you don't want Chrome to always open a specific page on startup, you can still make it the default **New Tab** page by adding a bookmark and using the **New Tab** extension. This method works on all Chrome versions.

How to Add a Bookmark

1. Navigate to the site you want as your homepage.
2. Click the star icon in the address bar.
3. Choose a folder (e.g., Bookmarks bar) and rename it if desired.
4. Click Done.

Using the “New Tab” Extension

Google Chrome’s built‑in **New Tab** page displays a grid of frequently visited sites. After adding a bookmark, it will appear there automatically, allowing you to click it with a single tap.

For a more customized experience, you can install a third‑party extension such as *Momentum*, *Infinity New Tab*, or *Blank New Tab Page*. These extensions let you set a custom background image, add widgets, and specify a default page.

Method 3: Setting a Startup Page via Chrome Flags (Advanced Users)

Chrome’s **flags** feature gives power users experimental options that can tweak browser behavior. While it’s not recommended for casual users, you can use a flag to force Chrome to open a specific page on startup.

How to Enable the Flag

1. Type chrome://flags/ into the address bar and press Enter.
2. Search for “Homepage” or “Open page on startup”.
3. Enable the flag by selecting Enabled from the drop‑down menu.
4. Restart Chrome for the changes to take effect.
5. Once restarted, navigate to chrome://settings/onStartup and set your preferred page.

Be cautious: flags can change Chrome’s stability and security. If you encounter issues, disable the flag and revert to the standard settings method.

Method 4: Using Chrome Extensions for a Fully Custom Homepage

For those who want a dynamic, fully personalized start page, extensions are the way to go. Below are some popular choices and how to set them up.

Momentum

Momentum replaces the default new tab with a beautiful dashboard featuring a daily photo, inspirational quote, and customizable to‑do list.

1. Visit the Chrome Web Store and search for “Momentum.”
2. Click Add to Chrome and confirm.
3. Once installed, click the Momentum icon in the extensions bar.
4. Sign in with your Google account to sync across devices.
5. Set your preferred background, add widgets, and choose a default page to open when you start Chrome.

Infinity New Tab

Infinity offers a highly configurable new tab layout, with options for bookmarks, shortcuts, and widgets.

1. Install Infinity from the Chrome Web Store.
2. Open a new tab to access the Infinity settings.
3. Customize the layout, add your homepage link, and set the page as the default new tab.

Blank New Tab Page

If you simply want a clean slate with a single link, this lightweight extension provides a blank page with an optional URL field.

1. Search for “Blank New Tab Page” in the Chrome Web Store.
2. Install and open a new tab.
3. Enter your homepage URL in the input box.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Sometimes Chrome may not behave as expected. Below are common problems and how to fix them.

Problem: Chrome Opens the New Tab Page Instead of My Homepage

Check that the **On startup**setting is correctly configured. If you’re using an extension, ensure it’s enabled and set as the default new tab.

Problem: My Homepage URL Is Not Loading

- Verify the URL is correct and that the site is online.
- Clear Chrome’s cache: chrome://settings/clearBrowserData.
- Disable conflicting extensions that might block the page.

Problem: Homepage Changes After a Chrome Update

Chrome updates can reset certain settings. After an update, revisit the **On startup**section to reapply your homepage. Using a bookmark or extension can preserve the setting across updates.

Advanced Tips for Power Users

Sync Your Homepage Across Devices

When you sign in to Chrome with a Google account, your bookmarks, passwords, and settings sync automatically. Ensure **On startup** is set on each device, or use a bookmark that’s available everywhere.

Use a Custom Local File as a Homepage

For developers or those who want a local dashboard, you can point Chrome to a local HTML file.

1. Create an index.html file in a folder (e.g., C:\\Users\\YourName\\Documents\\ChromeHome).
2. Add your HTML content.
3. In Chrome, go to Settings !’ On startup !’ Add a new page.
4. Enter the local path: file:///C:/Users/YourName/Documents/ChromeHome/index.html.

Set Multiple Startup Pages

If you want to open several tabs at launch, add each URL in the **On startup**section. Chrome will open a separate tab for each address.

Keyboard Shortcuts for Quick Navigation

- Ctrl + T – Open a new tab.
- Ctrl + Shift + T – Reopen the last closed tab.
- Ctrl + Shift + N – Open a new incognito window.
- Ctrl + H – Open the history panel.

Combining these shortcuts with a custom homepage can speed up your workflow dramatically.

Security & Privacy Considerations

When setting a homepage, especially if it's a third party site, consider the following:

- Use HTTPS URLs to ensure data encryption.
- Check for malware or phishing threats before bookmarking.
- Disable tracking scripts if you're concerned about privacy.
- Keep your Chrome browser and extensions up to date to mitigate security vulnerabilities.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I set a homepage in Incognito Mode?

No. Incognito mode opens a blank new tab each time. However, you can bookmark a site and click it manually.

Will setting a homepage affect my bookmarks?

No. Bookmarks remain independent of the homepage setting.

Is there a difference between "homepage" and "New Tab" in Chrome?

Yes. The homepage opens on startup, while the New Tab page appears when you open a new tab. You can configure them separately.

How do I remove a homepage I've set?

Go to Settings !' On startup, choose **Open the New Tab page** or **Continue where you left off**, and the custom page will be removed.

Conclusion

Setting a homepage in Chrome is a quick way to personalize your browsing experience, boost productivity, and keep your favorite sites within arm's reach. Whether you use the built in **On startup** setting, a bookmark, or a powerful extension, Chrome offers flexible options to suit both casual users and power users alike. By following the steps outlined above, you can ensure that every time you open Chrome, you're greeted with the page that best fits your needs. Happy browsing!

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