

Vectorworks Designer FAQ

1. What is Vectorworks Designer?

Vectorworks® Designer is a smart choice. It's a collection of all the Vectorworks products: Vectorworks Architect, Landmark, and Spotlight. Vectorworks Designer is made for the person or firm that handles multiple design disciplines and needs the tools to get it all done.

If your needs are more specific to one particular design discipline like architecture, landscape, or lighting, you may prefer to choose a single Vectorworks Design Series product to suit your needs. To find out more about our other products, [check out our product pages](#).

2. How quickly can I learn Vectorworks Designer?

Vectorworks Designer is known for its intuitive user interface and workflow. Getting you up and running quickly is our goal. Typically, after a two-day training course you'll understand the basics of Vectorworks Designer and you'll be able to start designing. We also have a number of self-training options available, so you can learn at your own pace. We offer tutorials with illustrated, step-by-step instructions and sample designs. See our [training page](#) for a list of tutorials.

3. Is there a free student version of Vectorworks?

Yes. Students around the world use Vectorworks Designer with Renderworks, which combines all the functionality of Vectorworks Landmark, Architect, and Spotlight into a single application. For more information, visit our [Student Portal](#).

4. Which schools are using Vectorworks Designer?

Many institutions of higher education and other schools throughout the world have already discovered Vectorworks Designer. To effectively prepare your students for a successful career in architecture, landscape, entertainment, or just about any type of design, please visit our [academic website](#) to contact our educational team.

5. After the original purchase of Vectorworks Designer, are there further costs?

You are not obligated to upgrade at any time. If you choose to upgrade, you may do so for only a fraction of the original cost of a new license. Nemetschek Vectorworks offers a variety of services (many of them free) to help users succeed with Vectorworks products. Take advantage of free options like service pack updates, Getting Started Guides, technical support, the knowledgebase, the eDispatch online newsletter, the Community Board and tech tips. Or, for more personalized training, you can purchase workbooks, training CDs, online training options, Vectorworks Service Select, and group or individual training courses. Check out the many resources on our [Training page](#).

Nemetschek Vectorworks, Inc.
7150 Riverwood Drive
Columbia, MD 21046 USA

T 410-290-5114
F 410-290-8050

www.vectorworks.net

6. What types of files can I import or export from within Vectorworks Designer?

Vectorworks handles a large variety of import and export formats. You can import or export your plan in DXF/DWG format, which will allow you to seamlessly and accurately send files back and forth between Vectorworks and the application being used by your colleague. You can export BIM models successfully to other downstream BIM applications using our IFC 2x3 export. You can create PDFs, JPGs, TIFs, and MOVs of your designs for your clients to see. Many other formats (Parasolid X_T, SAT, 3DS, EPS, PICT, STL, SKP, C4D, and IGS, among others) allow you to exchange data freely with almost every application.

7. Can I install my licensed software on either a Macintosh or a PC?

Yes. Your license is cross platform so you can choose to install your software on either a Macintosh or PC. Please refer to the [end user license agreement](#) (EULA) for further details regarding additional restrictions or limitations of different licenses and protection methods.

8. What graphics options does Vectorworks Designer offer?

Vectorworks Designer offers you the freedom to design your way, and we're known for our graphics capabilities—we have tons of options: colored fills, gradients, 2D tiles, hatches, unlimited colors, variable line weights, and many other tools to help you realize your exact vision.

9. Can I create renderings, videos, and path animations with Vectorworks Designer?

Yes. Vectorworks Designer with Renderworks provides the ability to create videos of orbital, path and solar animations. With the Renderworks add-on, you can also create high-quality photorealistic and non-photorealistic and stylized rendered models that you can use to produce stunning images and animations.

10. Can co-workers simultaneously work on the same project?

You bet! Vectorworks Designer uses reference technology to allow several co-workers to work on the same project simultaneously. You can reference symbols, parts of a plan, or even entire floors together. And, with the help of workgroup referencing, the office standards can be set up so that everyone can access the standard office libraries, colors, documents, organizational structures, and much more. With Vectorworks Designer, you can all move ahead together.

11. Can I draw accurate floor plans directly in Vectorworks Designer?

Yes. In Vectorworks Designer, you can start with a 2D plan or with a 3D model and change your view at any time. Vectorworks Designer provides a structure of design layers, sheet layers, and classes for drawing organization. Drawing sets can be easily organized so you can quickly accomplish floor plans, sketches, elevations, details, sections, and schedules.

12. Can I design a 3D model in Vectorworks?

Yes. Our 3D modeling is based on the leading Parasolid technology to provide best-in-class modeling. You'll see many 3D objects, such as walls, windows, doors, and stairs. Additionally, Vectorworks Designer features a set of sophisticated tools that facilitate true, free-form modeling.

13. Who can get the free Vectorworks Viewer?

You, your colleagues, your clients—anyone who wants to open, view, or print Vectorworks documents can get the free Viewer. The Viewer helps the plot service or printer who needs to work with Vectorworks files. Owners and clients can use the Viewer to see the documents without the need for a full version of Vectorworks. The files cannot be changed; all tools except those for revision control are blocked. With the Viewer, you can open drawings from all Vectorworks products. Download it from [our website](#), free of charge.

14. What are the system recommendations for Vectorworks Designer?

Windows: 4GB RAM, Pentium 2 Ghz or better processor, Windows XP SP3, Vista SP2, Windows 7
Macintosh: 4GB RAM, Intel Core 2 GHz or better processor, Mac OS X 10.5.7 or higher
For the most current and update information, please visit our [Knowledge base](#).