

Changing the Unit of Measurement for New Files

Reference Number: **KB-00024**

Last Modified: **November 29, 2018**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

When I start a new drawing, my walls and other objects are measured in metric units. How do I change back to imperial units?

ANSWER

While it's possible to specify in your 'Dimension Defaults' that dimension lines display imperial, metric or both units of measurement in any imperial plan, it's important to remember that for accuracy in all situations, it's best to use the unit of measure that was assigned to the plan when it was created.

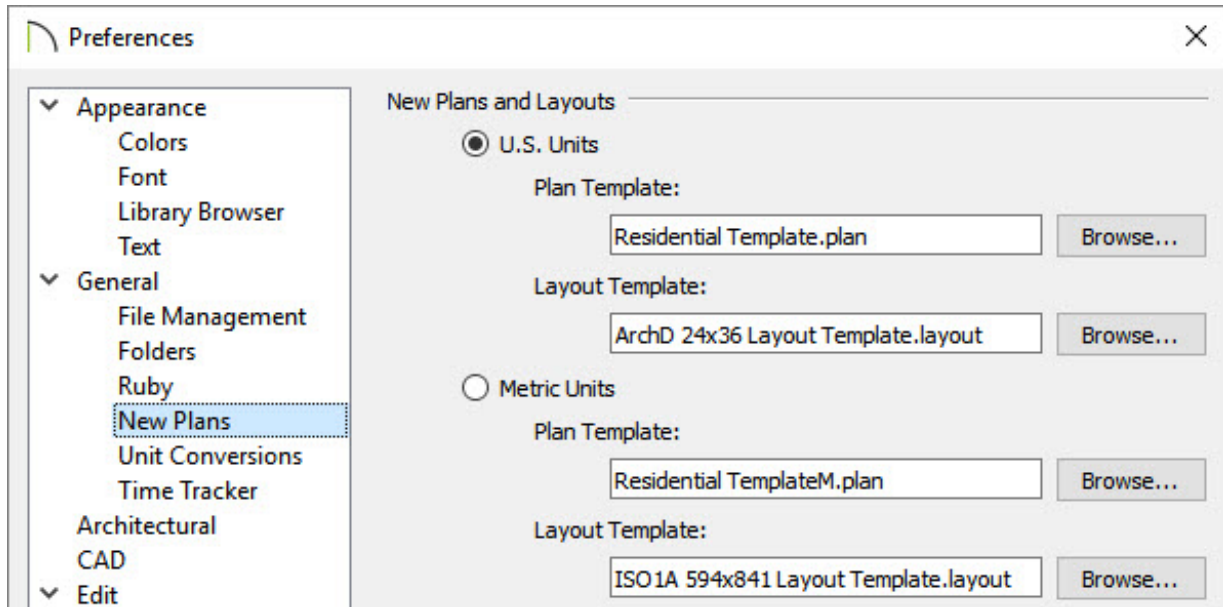
Make sure that when you create a template plan or layout file, you use the correct unit of measurement and that you never specify that file as your template for the other unit type.

To specify units of measure


1. Launch Chief Architect and select **Edit> Preferences**  if you're on a Windows

computer or **Chief Architect > Preferences**  if you're on a Mac.

2. On the **NEW PLANS** panel of the **Preferences** dialog, click the radio button beside either **U.S. (Imperial) Units** or **Metric Units** for new plans.






Note: Templates that install with Chief Architect will include a capital "M" in the template style for Metric plans. If you have the radio button set to Imperial Units, but the template is a style that includes an "M" in the name, use the Browse button to navigate to an Imperial template (one that does not have an "M" in the file name) in the software's Data folder and click Open. The out of box configuration for the default plan template for U.S. (Imperial) Units is Residential Template.plan, and for Metric Units, it's Residential TemplateM.plan.

3. Click **OK** to close the dialog to apply your change.
4. The plan that is currently open will not be affected by the change, however, when you select **File > New Plan**  from the menu to open a new plan, it will use the specified units of measure.

To specify template plans

If you have specified Imperial Units for your new plans on the **NEW PLANS** panel of the **Preferences** dialog but new, blank plans are using metric units, it's likely that your specified imperial template plan is actually a metric plan.

The steps below describe how to resolve this issue for a plan template, however, the same idea applies to layout templates.

1. Select **Edit> Preferences**  if you're on a Windows computer or **Chief Architect> Preferences**  if you're on a Mac.
2. On the **NEW PLANS** panel:
 - Click the radio button beside the type of units that you wish to use in new plans.
 - Click **Browse** next to the name of the template file that is using the wrong type of units.
 - Select a template that uses the correct type of units and click **OK**.
 - Click **OK** to close the dialog and apply the change.
3. Select **File> New Plan**  from the menu to open a new, blank plan with the desired units of measure.
4. You can now set up default settings and layer display options the way you want and save this plan as a custom template with the correct units of measure.

Note: You can create customized template plans and direct the program to refer to the template of your choice when opening a new, blank plan. For more information on creating template files, please see the Related Articles section below.

[📄 Creating and Using a Plan Template \(/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-a-plan-template.html\)](/support/article/KB-00463/creating-and-using-a-plan-template.html)

[📄 Creating and Using Layout Templates \(/support/article/KB-00737/creating-and-using-layout-templates.html\)](/support/article/KB-00737/creating-and-using-layout-templates.html)

[📄 Displaying Metric and Imperial Units on a Single Dimension Line \(/support/article/KB-00055/displaying-metric-and-imperial-units-on-a-single-dimension-line.html\)](/support/article/KB-00055/displaying-metric-and-imperial-units-on-a-single-dimension-line.html)

[📄 Restoring the Default Plan and Layout Template \(/support/article/KB-00333/restoring-the-default-plan-and-layout-template.html\)](/support/article/KB-00333/restoring-the-default-plan-and-layout-template.html)

[208-292-3400 \(tel:+1-208-292-3400\)](tel:+1-208-292-3400)

© 2000–2019 Chief Architect, Inc.

[Terms of Use \(/company/terms.html\)](/company/terms.html)

[Privacy Policy \(/company/privacy.html\)](/company/privacy.html)