Favicon sizes and tags

rjl.io/favicon-generator/

Files, sizes and formats

File	Size	Format	Used for
`favicon.svg`	Any (vector)	SVG	Tabs and bookmarks in modern browsers; can restyle for dark mode
`favicon.ico`	16, 32, 48 px in one file	ICO	Legacy browsers; tools that request `/favicon.ico` directly
`apple-touch-icon.png`	180 x 180	PNG	iPhone and iPad home screen (use a solid background)
`android-chrome-192x192.png`	192 x 192	PNG	Android home screen, installed app icon
`android-chrome-512x512.png`	512 x 512	PNG	Install splash screen
`og-image.png`	1200 x 630	PNG	Social and chat link previews
`screenshot-desktop.png`	1280 x 800	PNG	Install prompt, `form_factor: "wide"`
`screenshot-mobile.png`	750 x 1334	PNG	Install prompt, `form_factor: "narrow"`
`site.webmanifest`	n/a	JSON	App name, colors, icons, display mode

Source image: square, 512 x 512 px or larger, simple high-contrast mark with padding. Google Search wants a square icon in multiples of 48 px (48, 96, 144) or an SVG.

The head tags (copy and paste)

```
<link rel="icon" type="image/svg+xml" href="/favicon.svg" sizes="any">
<link rel="icon" href="/favicon.ico" sizes="32x32">
<link rel="apple-touch-icon" href="/apple-touch-icon.png">
<link rel="manifest" href="/site.webmanifest">
<meta name="theme-color" content="#ffffff">
<meta name="theme-color" media="(prefers-color-scheme: dark)" content="#1a1a1a">
<meta name="apple-mobile-web-app-title" content="My Website">
```

- Use root-relative paths that start with a slash so they work on every sub-page.
- `sizes="any"` belongs on the SVG only. Put a real size (`32x32`) on the ICO.
- Serve the SVG as `image/svg+xml` and keep the `type` attribute.

Web manifest entries

```
{
  "name": "My Website",
  "short_name": "MySite",
  "icons": [
    { "src": "/android-chrome-192x192.png",
      "sizes": "192x192", "type": "image/png" },
    { "src": "/android-chrome-512x512.png",
      "sizes": "512x512", "type": "image/png" }
  ],
  "theme_color": "#ffffff",
  "background_color": "#ffffff",
  "display": "browser"
}
```

What each field does

- `name` , `short_name` : full name and the short home screen label.
- `icons` : Chrome needs both the 192 and 512 px PNG to treat a site as installable.
- `display` : `browser` = normal tab; `standalone` = app-like window with no address bar.
- `theme_color` , `background_color` : toolbar color and splash color.
- `screenshots` : optional install prompt images, one wide and one narrow.
- `purpose: "maskable"` : optional; the icon is cropped, so keep key artwork in the central safe zone.

What each platform needs

Platform or place	Reads	Needs
Desktop browser tab	HTML `<link rel="icon">` tags	`favicon.svg` plus `favicon.ico` fallback
Tools that never read your HTML	`/favicon.ico` at the site root	The ICO in the root folder
iPhone, iPad home screen	`apple-touch-icon` link	180 x 180 PNG, solid background
Android home screen, installed web app	The web manifest	192 and 512 px PNG icons listed in `icons`
Mobile browser toolbar	`theme-color` meta tags	Light value, plus a dark value with the media query
Google Search results	The page icon	Square, multiple of 48 px, or an SVG
Install prompt	Manifest `screenshots`	1280 x 800 wide and 750 x 1334 narrow images
Social and chat link previews	`og:image` meta tag	1200 x 630 PNG

Deprecated: leave these out

- `rel="shortcut icon"` - non-standard; use `rel="icon"`.
- `<link rel="mask-icon">` and `safari-pinned-tab.svg` - Safari stopped using pinned-tab mask icons.
- `msapplication-*` meta tags, `browserconfig.xml`, `mstile-150x150.png` - Windows 8 tiles.
- Separate `favicon-16x16.png`, `favicon-32x32.png`, `favicon-48x48.png` - the ICO already holds those sizes.
- `apple-touch-icon-precomposed` and sized touch icon variants - one 180 px icon is enough.
- `sizes="any"` on an ICO or PNG link - a syntax error; it is for SVG.

Common mistakes and quick fixes

Symptom	Fix
Old icon still shows	Browsers cache favicons for a long time: hard-refresh, open the icon URL directly, or reopen the tab. Search results update on Google's schedule.
Black corners on the iPhone icon	iOS fills transparency with black. Use a source image with a solid background.
Icon missing on sub-pages	Replace relative paths like `favicon.svg` with root-relative `/favicon.svg`.
Blurry or unreadable at 16 px	Use a simple mark with padding, not a full logo with a tagline.
Not installable on Android	Add the manifest link and both 192 and 512 px PNG icons.

Audit workflow

1 Fetch the page HTML → **2** Read the head tags → **3** Match against the checklist (essential, important, recommended, deprecated) → **4** Score out of 100 → **5** Fix and re-check. Run it at **`rjl.io/favicon-checker/`**. Generate the full file set at **`rjl.io/favicon-generator/`**.