# Claude File Upload Size Limits & Context Window (2026)

*Edition of November 13, 2026 — facts verified November 13, 2026. Current edition always at https://tygartmedia.com/claude-file-size-limit/.*

**Direct Answer (November 13, 2026):** Claude.ai supports uploads up to **30MB per file** and up to **5 files per message** (PDFs, DOCX, CSV, TXT, images). Text documents are parsed and converted to tokens within Claude's **1,000,000-token (1M) context window** shared across all four current models (Fable 5.2, Opus 5.5, Sonnet 5.5, and Haiku 5.5). For larger datasets exceeding 30MB, developers use the Anthropic API with prompt caching or local embeddings to query multi-gigabyte document repositories.

*Last refreshed: November 13, 2026*

**Official links:** Upload limits help · Try Claude (claude.ai) · Plans & pricing

Model Accuracy Note — Updated November 13, 2026

Current models (November 13, 2026): **Fable 5.2 · Opus 5.5 · Sonnet 5.5 · Haiku 5.5** — all with a **1M-token context window** and 128K max output. Fable 5.1, Fable 5, Opus 5, Opus 4.8, Sonnet 4.6, and Haiku 4.5 (200K context) are legacy. Current model tracker → · Anthropic models overview →

Claude AI · Fitted Claude

Claude supports file uploads in claude.ai and via the API, with specific limits on file size, page count, and number of files. Here are the exact limits for PDFs, images, and other document types, plus what to do when your file is too large.

## Claude File Upload Limits (Updated November 2026)

| File type | Max file size | Page / length limit | Notes |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PDF** | 32 MB | 100 pages | Text layer required for reading. Image-only scans need OCR first. |
| **Images (JPG, PNG, GIF, WebP)** | 5 MB per image | Up to 20 images per request | All current Claude models support image input. |
| **Text files (TXT, MD, CSV)** | ~10 MB | Context window limit | Limited by context window, not file size. |
| **Word / DOCX** | ~10 MB | Context window limit | Claude extracts text content. |
| **Code files** | Context window limit | — | No special limit beyond context window. |

## What Happens When a File Is Too Large

*Too big? Split, compress, or link — don't force the upload.*

If a PDF exceeds 32 MB or 100 pages, Claude.ai will reject the upload with an error. The file won't be processed. The practical workarounds:

- **Split the PDF.** Most PDF readers and tools (Preview on Mac, Adobe, Smallpdf) can split a document into smaller sections. Upload the relevant section rather than the full document.
- **Compress the file.** Large PDFs are often oversized due to embedded images. Use a PDF compressor to reduce file size while preserving text quality.
- **Copy and paste the text.** For text-heavy documents, copying relevant sections directly into the chat removes the file size constraint entirely — the only limit is the context window (1M tokens across all current Claude models).
- **Use multiple conversations.** Process different sections in separate conversations and synthesize results yourself.

## Context Window as the True Limit

*Context window is the true limit — not just the upload meter.*

Even within the file size limits, the real constraint is the context window — how much text Claude can process at once. A 100-page PDF that's text-heavy may contain 60,000–80,000 tokens. All four current Claude models — Fable 5.2, Opus 5.5, Sonnet 5.5, and Haiku 5.5 — provide a **1 million token context window**, so most documents fit comfortably (legacy Haiku 4.5 remains at 200,000 tokens).

Where the context window becomes the binding constraint is when you're uploading multiple large files simultaneously — several hundred pages of documents combined or legacy Haiku 4.5 calls can still hit context caps.

## Scanned PDFs: The Hidden Limit

*Tokens still assemble the doc you uploaded — count before you paste.*

File size and page count are the official limits, but there's a functional limit that catches many users: scanned PDFs that are image-only have no text layer, so Claude can't read their content regardless of size. A 5-page scanned document may be effectively unreadable while a 100-page digital PDF works fine. Run scanned documents through OCR software to create a text layer before uploading. See Can Claude Read PDFs? for the full breakdown.

## Image Limits in Detail

Each image can be up to 5 MB, with a maximum of 20 images per API request. In Claude.ai conversations, you can upload multiple images in a single message. Claude processes images using its vision capability — all current models (Fable 5.2, Opus 5.5, Sonnet 5.5, and Haiku 5.5, as well as legacy Haiku 4.5) support image input including JPG, PNG, GIF, and WebP formats.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the Claude file size limit?

PDFs: 32 MB and 100 pages maximum. Images: 5 MB per image, up to 20 images per request. Text files and documents: effectively limited by the context window rather than file size. These limits apply to claude.ai and the API.

### What do I do if my PDF is too large for Claude?

Split the PDF into smaller sections, compress it to reduce file size, or copy and paste the relevant text directly into the conversation. Text pasted directly is only limited by the context window (1M tokens across all current Claude models), not file size limits.

### How many files can I upload to Claude at once?

Multiple files can be uploaded in a single conversation. The practical limit is the combined text content fitting within Claude's context window — 1M tokens across all four current models (Fable 5.2, Opus 5.5, Sonnet 5.5, and Haiku 5.5; legacy Haiku 4.5 is 200K tokens). For images, the API supports up to 20 per request.

Need this set up for your team?

Talk to Will →

■ Deploying Claude or AI Infrastructure in Your Business?

At Tygart Media, we engineer custom Model Context Protocol (MCP) servers, multi-model content pipelines, and AI operational systems. Explore our Claude AI Team Implementation Services or check out our complete Restoration Operations & AI Kit.

## Primary & Reference Links Cited on This Page

- Upload limits help — `https://support.claude.com`
- Try Claude (claude.ai) — `https://claude.ai`
- Plans & pricing — `https://claude.com/pricing`
- Anthropic models overview → — `https://platform.claude.com/docs/en/about-claude/models/overview`

- Tygart Media: Current model tracker →
- Tygart Media: Can Claude Read PDFs?
- Tygart Media: Talk to Will →
- Tygart Media: Restoration Operations & AI Kit