



Pacman & Yay Cheat Sheet

Arch Linux package management quick reference (pacman + yay)

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Tested June 2026: Pacman 7.1.0 / yay 12.6.0 / Arch Linux kernel 7.0.12

REFERENCE

<code>-S</code>	Sync: install or upgrade from the remote repositories
<code>-R</code>	Remove installed packages
<code>-Q</code>	Query the local database (what is installed)
<code>-F</code>	Query the files database (which package ships a file)
<code>-U</code>	Upgrade or install from a local or remote package file
<code>-D</code>	Database operations such as changing the install reason

PACMAN COMMAND REFERENCE

<code>pacman -Syu</code>	Refresh databases and upgrade everything (the only correct update)
<code>pacman -Syyu</code>	Force a full database re-download, then upgrade
<code>checkupdates</code>	List pending updates safely, without syncing the real database
<code>pacman -Qu</code>	List installed packages with available updates
<code>pacman -S pkg</code>	Install a package from the repos
<code>pacman -S --needed pkg</code>	Install only if not already current
<code>pacman -Sw pkg</code>	Download to the cache without installing
<code>pacman -U file.pkg.tar.zst</code>	Install a local or remote package file
<code>pacman -Sg / -Sg group</code>	List groups / list a group's members
<code>pacman -R pkg</code>	Remove a package, keep deps and config
<code>pacman -Rns pkg</code>	Remove package, unused deps, and config
<code>pacman -Rns \$(pacman -Qtdq)</code>	Remove all orphaned packages
<code>pacman -Ss term</code>	Search the repositories
<code>pacman -Si pkg</code>	Show repo package details
<code>pacman -Qi pkg</code>	Show installed package details
<code>pacman -Ql pkg</code>	List files a package owns
<code>pacman -Qo /path</code>	Find which package owns a file
<code>pacman -Fy / -Fx regex</code>	Sync the file database / search it by regex
<code>pacman -Qe</code>	List explicitly installed packages
<code>pacman -Qm</code>	List foreign (AUR) packages
<code>pacman -Qtdq</code>	List orphaned packages
<code>pacman -Qkk pkg</code>	Verify a package's files (size, perms, checksum)
<code>pacman -D --asdeps pkg</code>	Mark a package as a dependency
<code>pacman -Sc / -Scc</code>	Clean old cache / clean all cache
<code>pacman -Syu --ignore pkg</code>	Upgrade while skipping a package

YAY COMMAND REFERENCE

<code>yay or yay -Syu</code>	Upgrade repos and the AUR together
<code>yay -Sua</code>	Upgrade AUR packages only
<code>yay -Qua</code>	List AUR packages that have updates
<code>yay -S pkg</code>	Install from the repos or the AUR
<code>yay term</code>	Search and pick from a numbered menu
<code>yay -Ss term</code>	Search repos and the AUR
<code>yay -Rns pkg</code>	Remove a package cleanly
<code>yay -Qm</code>	List installed AUR packages
<code>yay -Ps</code>	Print system and package statistics
<code>yay -Pw</code>	Print the latest Arch news
<code>yay -Yc</code>	Remove unneeded dependencies
<code>yay -Gp pkg</code>	Print a package's PKGBUILD
<code>yay -G pkg</code>	Download a package's build files
<code>yay -Y --gendb</code>	Build the devel database for -git packages
<code>yay -Syu --devel</code>	Upgrade, also checking -git packages for new commits
<code>yay --save</code>	Persist the given flags to the config file