

Autodesk® Fabrication CADmep™
Autodesk® Fabrication ESTmep™
Autodesk® Fabrication CAMduct™
Autodesk® Revit® software

Questions and answers

Using Autodesk Fabrication software content in Autodesk Revit software.

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1. How do I use my Fabrication databases in Revit?

Databases and libraries of content from the Fabrication software products are automatically available for use in Autodesk® Revit® 2016 or Autodesk® Revit® MEP 2016 software. Revit looks to your Fabrication folders to pull in the MEP services that you use in the Fabrication software products so they can be used to model as Fabrication Parts.

You need to have Autodesk® Fabrication CADmep™ 2016 software, Autodesk® Fabrication ESTmep™ 2016 software, or Autodesk® Fabrication CAMduct™ 2016 software for Revit 2016 to locate the appropriate folders.

If you are moving from a previous version of these Fabrication products, you should use the database migration tool to update your database so that it can be appropriately located by Revit.

2. How do I open a .MAJ file in Revit or export a .RVT file as a .MAJ?

The import of .MAJ files and export as .MAJ functionality requires the **Autodesk® Revit® Extension for Autodesk® Fabrication** software add-in to be installed.

You can download the add-in from [Autodesk Exchange here](#). The add-in requires an active license of Revit 2016 software or Revit MEP 2016 software to function.

Once installed, you will find the feature listed under Add-Ins.

3. Can I convert a Revit model that uses generic/design Revit family components?

At this time, the existing RIF functionality should be used to convert and map a Revit design model that uses Revit families to a Fabrication CADmep model using ITM. As always, limitations of the original design model will determine the integrity of the converted model.

Once converted, the Revit Extension for Fabrication software add-in can be used to import the .MAJ file back into an empty Revit project.

4. Why can't I do more in Revit, such as spooling?

At this time, this functionality is limited to using Fabrication Parts to detailed coordination inside of Revit. We plan to introduce enhancements in the future that will extend the ability for Revit to provide more detailing features for MEP systems. Unfortunately, we cannot comment on when such enhancements will be available for public consumption.

For users who want to use Fabrication Parts in Revit to detail projects, they can use the Revit Extension for Fabrication to bring their detailed model into Fabrication CADmep for spooling and preparation for the field.

5. What was Autodesk's intention with this functionality?

The initial intention was to provide a simpler method for users to bring Fabrication models into Revit at the end of the project, while providing basic tools for detailing connected MEP layouts so that AutoCAD users can start to understand the Revit environment.

Additionally, we wanted to help ensure that customer investment in Fabrication databases and content was safeguarded, which entailed enabling Revit to natively consume ITM content, services, and system connectivity.

Moving to a new platform like Revit can present challenges. Having to also invest in new content and require your peers and project stakeholders to do the same, just complicates the process. If you choose to make the transition to Revit, Autodesk wanted to make it as painless and trouble-free as possible, by enabling you to do so in your own time with backwardly compatible tools and with familiar content you trust.

6. Does Autodesk plan to continue developing this functionality?

Yes. This release is just the beginning and we will continue to enhance and develop new ways of integrating Revit design software with Fabrication detailing software, including building out native functionality in Revit and continuing to improve interoperability between the platforms.

We want our customers to have the options they need to facilitate their current and future working practices.

7. What Fabrication content is currently supported in Revit? Why is all my content not available to be used in Revit?

For the initial release, some types of ITM content is not supported by Revit. This unsupported ITMs will not be available for modeling in Revit and will not be able to be brought into Revit from a .MAJ import.

The current limitations include: flex duct, structural members, air terminals, and mechanical equipment. In place of these components, you can use Revit Family (RFA) based components using the category's standard placement tools.

We plan to introduce further ITM support in the future.

8. Why did Autodesk choose to make ITM content native to Revit, instead of using Revit families (RFA)?

Revit families are designed to support the user in the design intent workflow, whereas fabrication content is designed to support the intended manufacture and construction of the components. Fabrication ITM content was developed to support the MEP construction process, offering enhanced graphical display, embedded connector behavior, material properties and manufacturing logic. It represents the most popular and comprehensive form of LOD 400 content available to the industry today; supporting the modeling, estimating, fabrication and procurement needs of the construction process. Revit families are based on solid models, and consequently, there is no established mechanism by which to ensure that a flat pattern development is possible from end user defined geometry.

Further, each ITM pattern is purpose built to support the parametrics required for the type of component, such as body and insulation geometry, connector geometry and behavior, and additional data as required for manufacture and procurement. Ultimately, we believe that this will make creation of content more consistent and more approachable by a wider community of manufacturers and content providers.

9. How can using Revit 2016 improve my workflow?

Revit 2016 will now read .ITM files natively. Many customers have asked for a workflow that allows moving Fabrication CADmep as-built models into Revit for final federated model requirements. As Revit 2016 allows native use of .ITM and .MAJ files, you can now simply open your final Fabrication CADmep as-built model (with some content limitations) without the need to convert other file types.

10. How much Revit knowledge is required to take advantage of this new Revit workflow?

Opening a .MAJ file or modeling with .ITM content only requires the most basic Revit knowledge. Many of our Advanced MEP Specialized Partners provide Revit training designed specifically for the MEP contractor – [find a partner near you here](#). Select 'Advanced MEP' in the Specialization filter to ensure you get a list of the appropriate partners.

11. Will development of MEP fabrication in Revit continue? What is the timeline?

Autodesk has demonstrated its commitment to the MEP Fabrication industry through the acquisition of Micro Application Packages (MAP Software), the continued development of the Fabrication product line, and the inclusion of recent detailing capabilities in Revit 2016.

Whilst Autodesk cannot comment on future features or release time frames, we are committed to continued investment in this area.

12. Can I use Fabrication ESTmep 2016 and Fabrication CAMduct 2016 with Revit 2016?

Yes you can and more easily than before. An .MAJ file can now be saved directly from Revit and opened – without conversion or mapping – in Fabrication ESTmep for estimating and Fabrication CAMduct for manufacturing; a process that illustrates the integrated nature of the MEP platforms.

13. I am going to need BPM (Building Product Manufacturers) content and I know there are vendors that provide this, should I subscribe to their services?

This is certainly an option and there are a number of vendors that offer both ITM and RFA based content, including manufacturers’.

If evaluating this opportunity you want to look for content you can trust, that is well built, accurate, and endorsed by the manufacturer. A reputable vendor will be able to provide these reassurances, so you should check.

Autodesk also provide sample manufacturer content that is unlocked. As such, it’s possible a similar component to the one you need already ships with the Fabrication products; often these can be copied and modified to meet your requirements.

14. It seems odd that I should have to use two products, one for modeling (Revit) and one for documentation (CADmep) when other vendors claim to offer just one.

At this time, no single offering exists in the market place. There are third party add-ins in the market, but these are additional pieces of software that sit on top of the Revit environment. All third party solutions rely on Revit.

15. How can I stay up-to-date on the latest news when it comes to future developments to this functionality?

We will work to keep community forums updated – including www.xtracad.com and the Fabrication CADmep LinkedIn Group. We will use these third party vehicles to communicate future enhancements.

Additionally, you can make sure you are opt-in to [marketing communications from Autodesk](#).

16. I have a question that has not been answered here, or I would like to send some feedback. Can I contact someone?

Yes, please feel free to email us on fabrication.enquiries@autodesk.com to ask additional questions around the information provided in this document.