

Creating raster catalogs in a geodatabase

Raster datasets within raster catalogs can be managed in two ways by the file and personal geodatabases: either managed by the geodatabase or not. To have the raster catalog managed by the geodatabase means that the raster datasets are copied and stored alongside the geodatabase. When a row is deleted from the catalog, it is deleted from the geodatabase. When you do not have your raster managed by the geodatabase, there is only a pointer connecting the raster catalog row to the file-based raster dataset.

When creating a raster catalog, the coordinate system needs to be set for the geometry column. If your coordinate system is unknown, you need to specify the domain for the geometry column. Otherwise, if neither of these is set, your datasets may not be visible in the display.

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Steps:

Right-click a geodatabase and click New > Raster Catalog.

Optionally, choose a template raster catalog on which to base your new raster catalog. You may want to use an existing raster catalog as a template if you have created additional fields in it that you want to have in your new raster catalog. The new raster catalog will then have the same fields as the template raster catalog.

Type a name for the new raster catalog. The raster catalog name cannot have spaces. You can use underscores to separate letters.

Optionally, click the Coordinate System for Raster Column button to choose a coordinate system for the raster catalog.

Click the Coordinate System for Geometry Column button to set a coordinate system for the geometry column. If your coordinate system for the geometry column is unknown, you need to set the domain. Setting the domain for a raster catalog works the same way as it does for a feature class.

How raster data is stored in a geodatabase

The storage method used by file geodatabases shares features from both the ArcSDE geodatabase and the personal geodatabase. Managed raster data is stored in the same way as an ArcSDE geodatabase, and unmanaged raster data is stored in the same way as a personal geodatabase. File geodatabases are similar to personal geodatabases in that they are designed to be edited by a single user and do not support versioning. They reside in your file system directory, thus do not require a password to access. Raster data storage in file geodatabases is similar to the storage structure in ArcSDE geodatabases.

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Importing a raster dataset

- If you want to import a raster dataset into a geodatabase, see [About importing raster datasets](#). This help topic covers loading and importing rasters, as well as loading rasters into an empty raster dataset.
- If you are working with raster catalogs, refer to [Creating raster catalogs in a geodatabase](#). This topic discusses raster catalogs in geodatabases and how to create them.