# Things to do BEFORE installing Big Sur
# and the Installation Check List

**Please read this whole document BEFORE beginning any installation of macOS Big Sur**

**We Recommend that you watch this LHAUG seminar before you install macOS Big Sur so you get the whole picture -** where Ken Spencer will introduce you to the features of macOS Big Sur, the latest Mac operating system. Including **Does your computer support it, and should you install it?** Using your web browser ( Safari ), the video can be found at www.lhaug.org, then click on the Videos tab, and select 08-10-2021 macOS Big Sur by Ken Spencer. Or directly on youTube at **https://youtu.be/-fy5YFyqAv0**

Remember, if you have any questions or problems during an install, or if you want help with doing this installation, you may call our member support line at 916-668-0684. M -> F 9 AM -> 4 PM.

**1. Check your computer's compatibility:**

*(For details about your Mac model,*
*click the black Apple icon at the top left of your screen and choose About This Mac )*

•These Mac models are compatible with macOS Big Sur:
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•MacBook (2015 or later)
•MacBook Air (2013 or later)
•MacBook Pro (Late 2013 or later)
•Mac mini (2014 or later)
•iMac (2014 or later)
•iMac Pro (2017 or later)
•Mac Pro (2013 or later)

**2. Check the amount of free space ( storage ) available on your computer's hard drive.**
macOS Big Sur needs up to 50GB of available storage space to upgrade.

**IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS THEN YOU CANNOT INSTALL macOS Big Sur.**

**3. Quit ALL your active Applications.**

**4. Check if there are any available updates for the apps that you've installed on your Mac.**

To update your apps, launch the App Store on your Mac and click on your Apple ID name located at the bottom-left corner. From here, you should be able to view all the available updates and download them.

Apps obtained elsewhere may require updating through the app itself, or through the developer or manufacturers website.

*NOTE: Check for app updates after you have upgraded to macOS Big Sur as well, since app developers will continue to release compatibility updates for the latest version of Apple's desktop operating system.*

## 5. Check if there are any macOS system software updates for your current version of macOS.

Depending upon which version of macOS you have installed, you would do this by going to the black Apple Logo in the upper left hand corner of your screen, selecting System Preferences and then the Software Update icon within System Preferences. If you have an older version of macOS installed, then you would do any updates by going to the black Apple Logo in the upper left hand corner of your screen, selecting App Store, and then select the Updates tab within the App Store window. When all updates ( not upgrades ) are completed, then continue to step **6**.

## 6. Backup your computer.

**This is probably the most crucial step you need to follow before installing any major software update on your macOS system.**

Use Time Machine from the top menu bar to completely back up your computer.
When Time Machine says it has finished backing up your computer, then you may proceed.

## 7. Shut Down your computer.

## 8. Disconnect any external drives ( Time Machine and others ) from your computer.

## 9. Restart your computer.

## NOW you are ready to install macOS Big Sur

If you've completed all the above steps, you should be ready to install macOS Big Sur.

If you're using macOS Mojave or later, you can get macOS Big Sur via Software Update: Choose Apple menu  > System Preferences, then click Software Update. Here, you'll be notified when macOS Big Sur is available. Click on "Upgrade Now" to begin the installation process.

Or use this link to open the macOS Big Sur page on the App Store: Get macOS Big Sur. Then click the Get button or iCloud download icon.

After downloading, the installer will open automatically. Click Continue and follow the onscreen instructions.

**Please allow the installation to complete without putting your Mac to sleep or closing its lid.**
During installation, your Mac might restart and show a progress bar or blank screen several times.

You might find it easiest to begin installation in the evening so that it can complete overnight, if preferred. This install could take up to 2 hours to complete.

The installer file that's downloaded on to your Mac will typically be removed automatically once the upgrade is finished installing.

## Stay up to date
After installing macOS Big Sur, you will see Notifications showing up when updates to macOS Big Sur are available. To manually check for updates, choose Apple menu  > System Preferences, then click Software Update.

# A VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:
**You will need to have a new external disk drive to be used for Time Machine backup under macOS Big Sur.**

*( We recommend a Seagate 2 TB (terabyte) 2.5 inch "portable drive" available at Costco for about $60-70. We do NOT recommend any another brand, an SSD, or drive capacities larger that 2 TB)*

You cannot re-purpose your old Time Machine drive. Time Machine for macOS Big Sur completely erases a drive and then uses a totally different format for macOS Big Sur's Time Machine storage.

Besides you really want to keep your "old" Time Machine drive and it's contents around as a long term archive.

Keeping the old Time Machine backup is especially important IF / when any problems might occur installing or using macOS Big Sur - we will need your "previous" Time Machine drive and contents for restoring files.