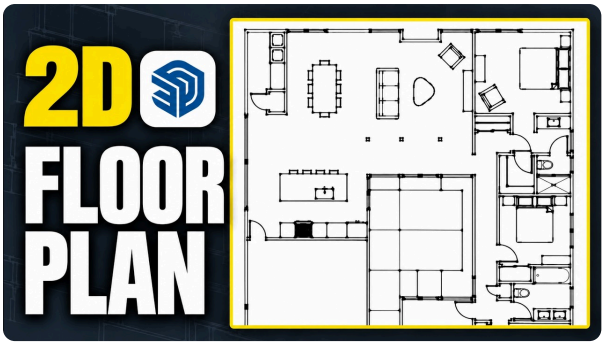
sketchupschool

YOUTUBE VIDEO NOTES FOR:

How to Create a 2D Floor Plan in SketchUp



These are the full notes for our video — every tip, screenshot and step, right on this page.

These notes live at www.sketchupschool.com/create-a-2d-floor-plan-in-sketchup-2027-notes

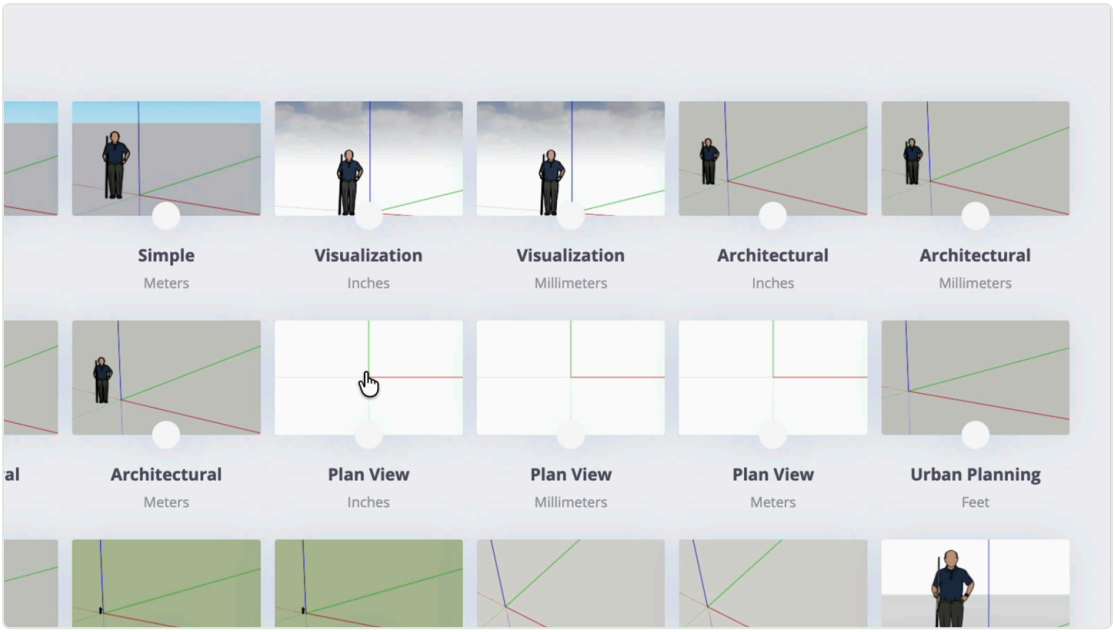
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#1 Start in a 2D Template

To create a simple 2D floor plan in SketchUp, start with a **Plan View** template using **Inches** or **Millimeters**, depending on your measurements. Open a new file from a template using the **File** menu.

You are still working in a 3D environment, but looking down at the plan.



Start with a top-down view and the units you use.

#2 Draw Your Floor

Start with measurements of the space. Use the **Line** tool to draw the floor one measurement at a time:

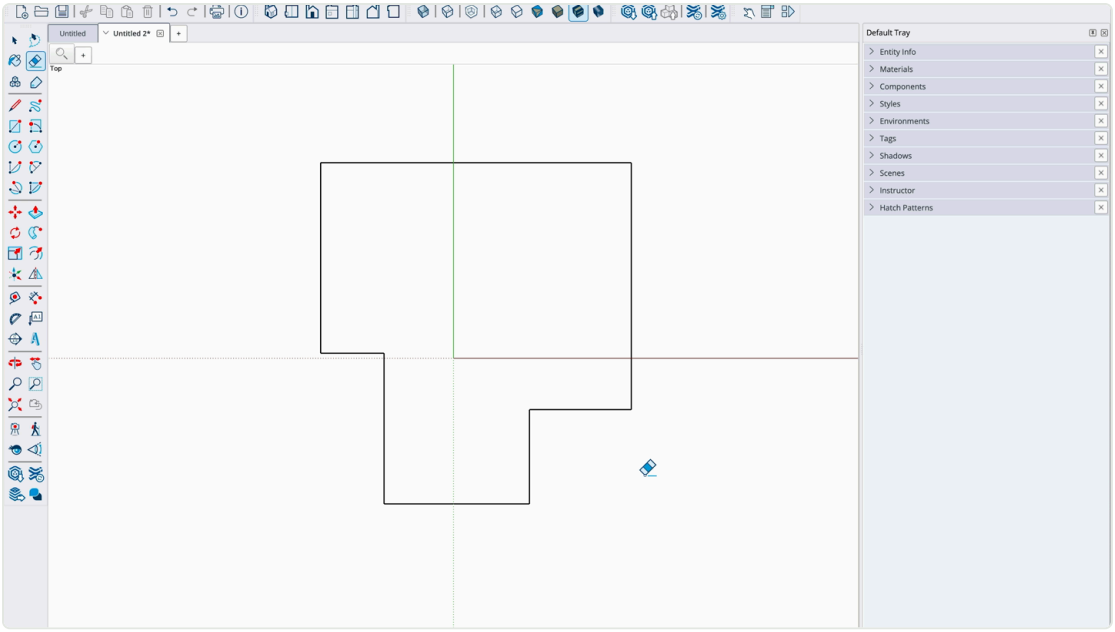
1. Click to start an edge and draw in the intended direction.
2. Type its length on your keyboard and press **Enter** or **Return**.
3. Continue around the footprint until it closes.

Type while using the tool or immediately afterward; do not click inside the **Measurements** box.

For Imperial measurements, enter the feet, the foot mark and the inches. For metric measurements, use **m**, **cm** or **mm** for the unit. Whole numbers, decimals and fractions work; separate a fraction from its whole number with a space.

For a simpler rectangular space, start with the **Rectangle** tool, then use **Line**, **Rectangle** and **Eraser** to add or subtract parts of the footprint.

Draw at one-to-one size. Zoom to change your view rather than changing the dimensions.



Draw at full size; zoom changes only your view.

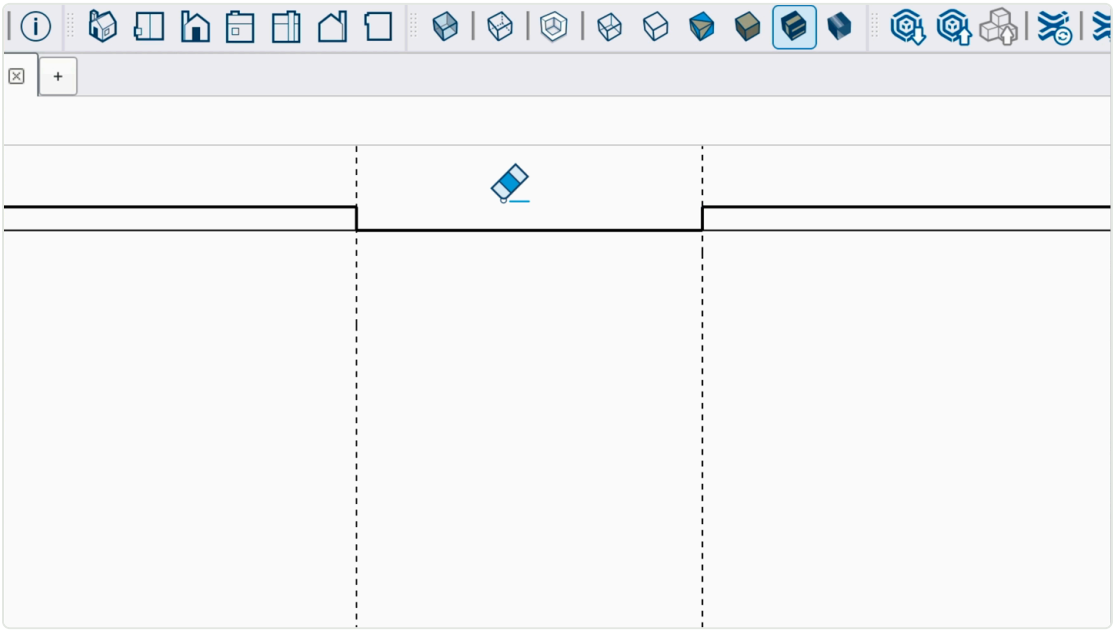
#3 Draw Your Exterior Walls

Use **Offset** to add wall thickness. If your measurements describe the inside of the room, offset **outward**. Type the wall thickness and press **Enter** or **Return**.

For doorway openings:

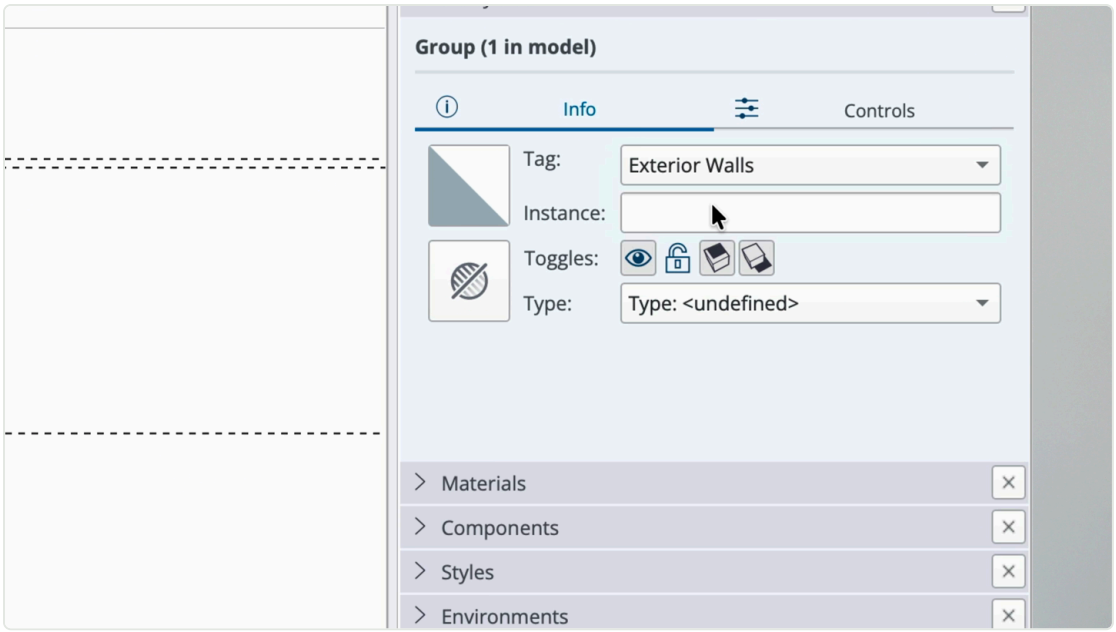
1. Use **Tape Measure** to create a guide locating the opening.
2. Create another guide for its width.
3. Draw a **Rectangle** across the wall at the guide intersections.
4. Use **Eraser** to remove the outside edge as demonstrated, then repeat for the other openings.

Windows are added later as symbols.



Use guides to locate the opening before removing the wall edge.

Select the floor and exterior walls and make them a **Group**. Create a **Tag** and assign it to that group so you can control its visibility.



Assign the tag to the group.

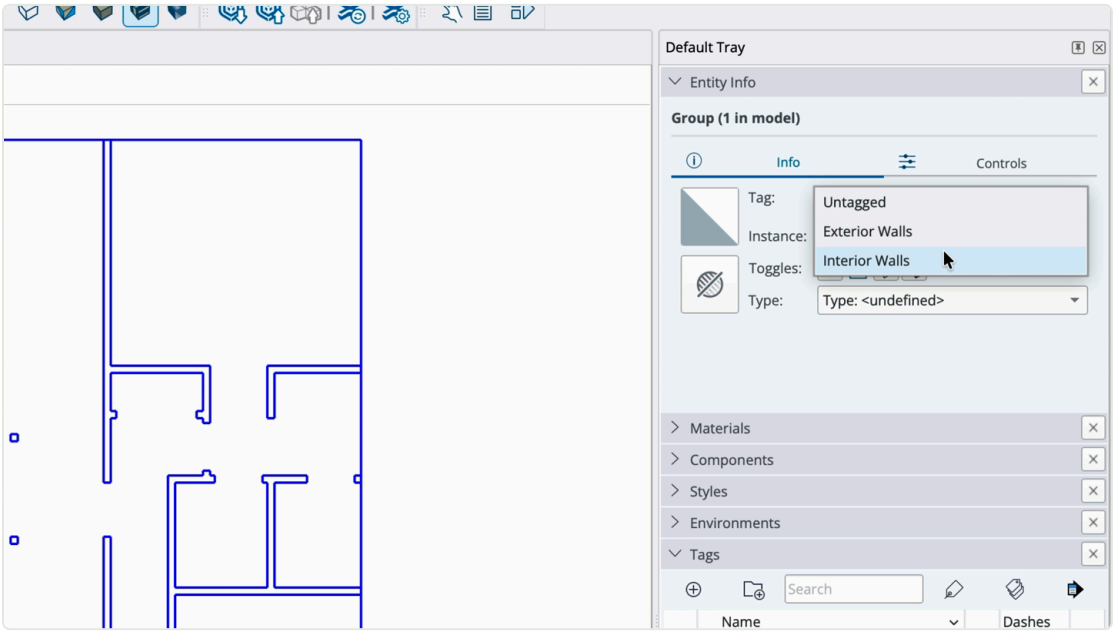
#4 Draw Your Interior Walls

Work **outside the exterior-walls group** so the interior walls stay separate and are easier to edit.

Use **Tape Measure** to place guides from your measurements, then **Rectangle** to draw the wall segments. Remove unnecessary edges with **Eraser**.

Erase individual guides when needed, or choose **Edit > Delete Guides** when you no longer need them.

To group the interior walls without selecting the floor and exterior walls, turn off the exterior group's tag. Select the visible interior walls, right-click and choose **Make Group**, then assign a tag to that group. Restore the exterior group's visibility to see the complete plan.



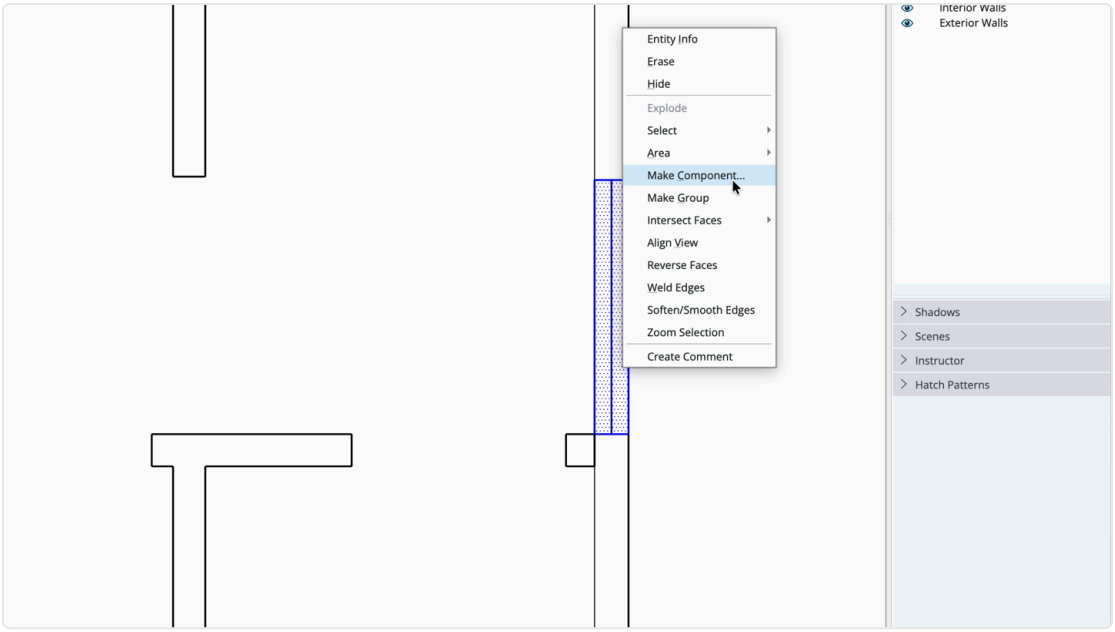
Keep interior walls separate from the floor and exterior walls.

You could branch into 3D modeling from this point. For this tutorial, continue to finish the plan in 2D.

#5 Draw Simple 2D Symbols

Components can represent windows, doors, fixtures and furniture, much like symbols or blocks in other CAD programs.

For a simple window, a rectangle and a line may be enough. Select the geometry you draw, right-click and choose **Make Component**.



Turn your drawn symbol into a component.

#6 Use 2D Symbol Libraries

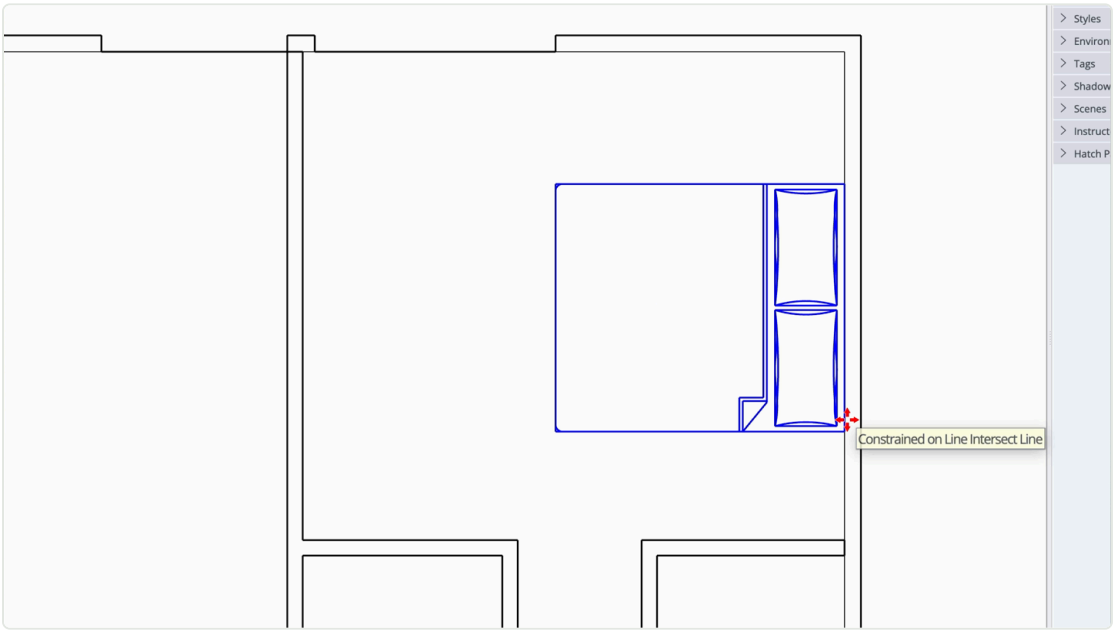
Start with the starter 2D symbol library. If you need something it does not include:

1. Choose **Window > 3D Warehouse**.
2. Search for **2D** and the object's name.
3. Select the **Download** icon and download the component into your model.
4. Click in an open area to place it.

Check the dimensions before positioning it. If the size is wrong, find a closer match. Stretching a symbol to fit can misrepresent how the actual object will fit.

- **Rotate:** hover over the component with **Move**, then over a red plus sign. Click to rotate, move the mouse and click to finish.
- **Position precisely:** with **Move**, click a recognizable point on the component, then the point in the plan where it should land.

Organize components with **Tags** so you can show or hide them together.

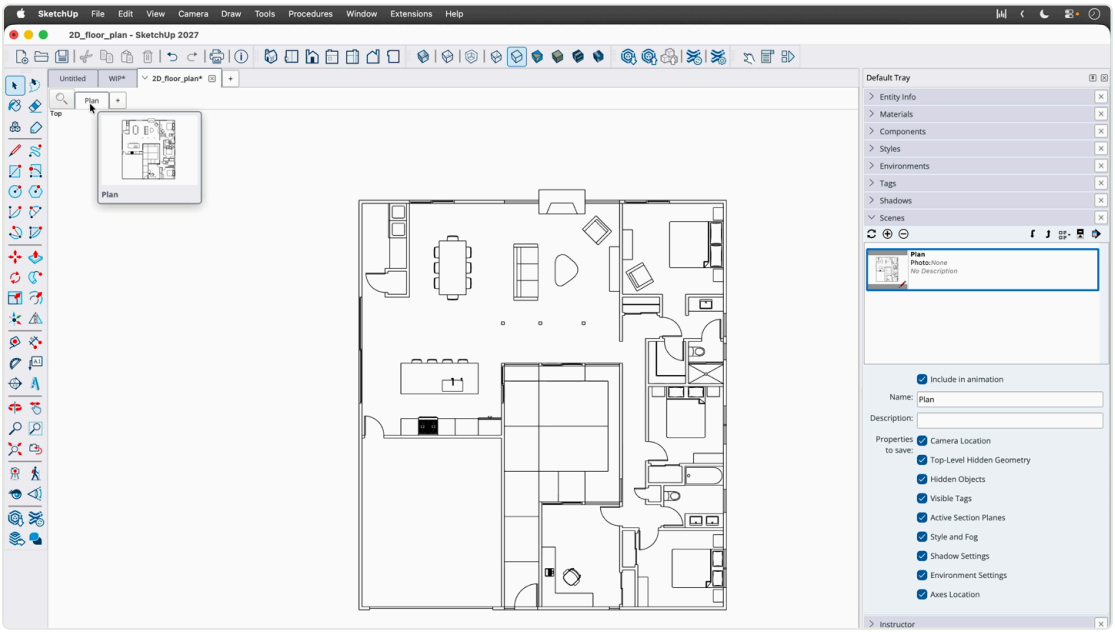


Pick a recognizable point on the component, then its destination.

#7 Style Your Plan for Presentation

You can later explore different visual styles, take the plan into LayOut or build the space in 3D. First, prepare a useful presentation view:

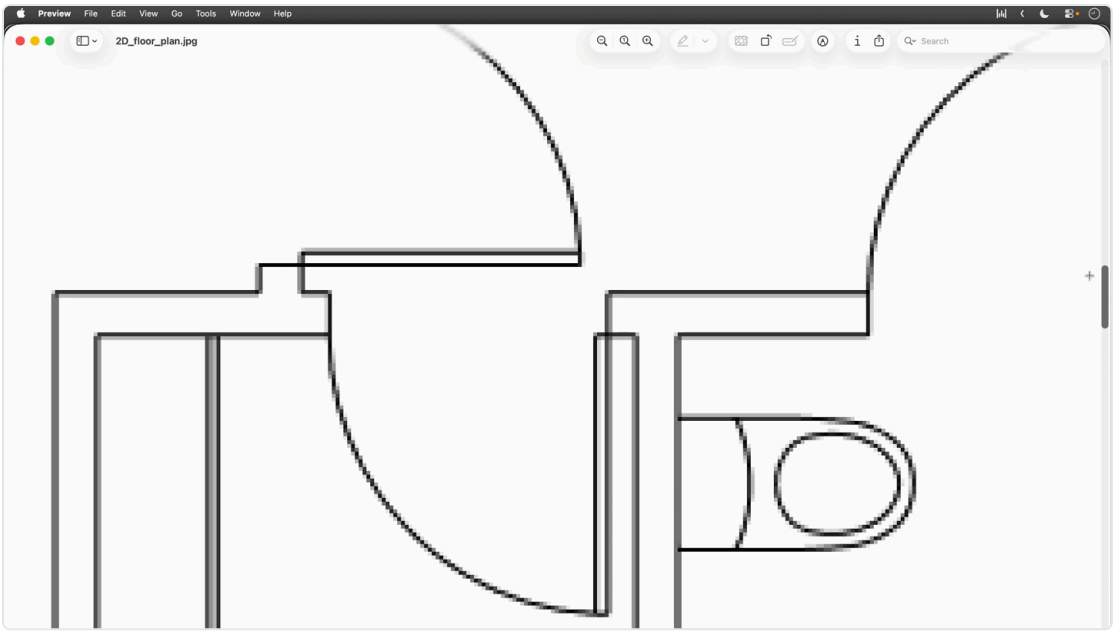
1. Choose **View > Axes** to hide the axes.
2. Zoom and pan to frame the plan.
3. Open **Scenes**, create a Scene and give it a name.
4. Return to that Scene whenever you need the saved view.



Save a named Scene to return to this view.

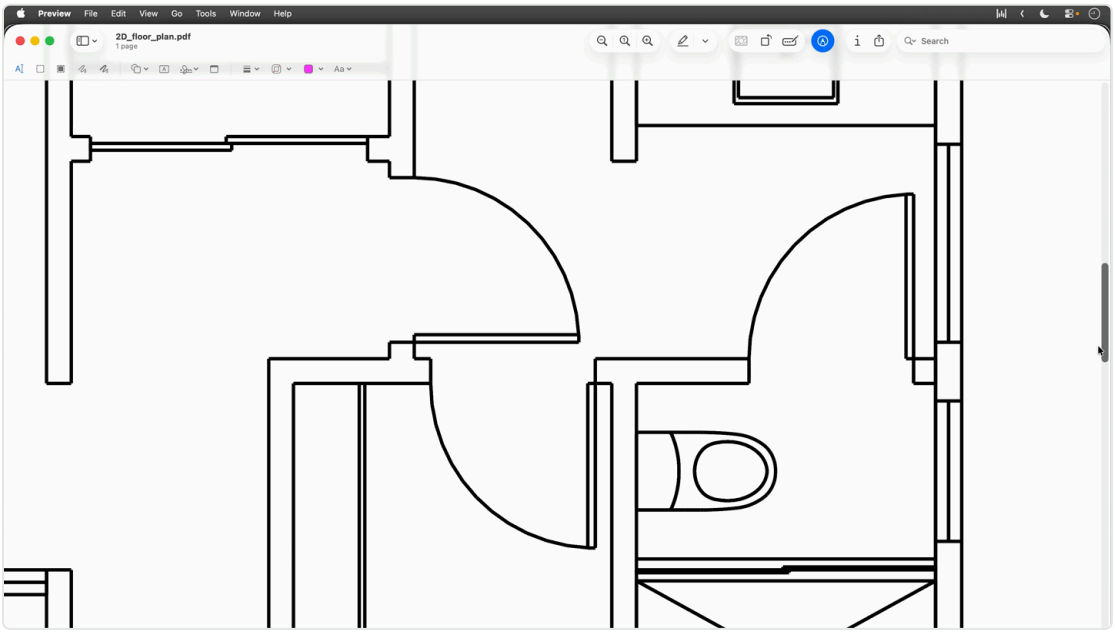
To export, choose **File > Export > 2D Graphic**, select the format, name the file and click **Export**.

JPEG images are rasterized. Inspect the export at the size you intend to present it; the linework can become less crisp when enlarged.



Raster image: inspect the linework at the size you will use.

A **vector PDF export** preserves crisp linework as you enlarge it. Check the exported result from the demonstrated workflow.



Vector PDF: inspect the exported linework.

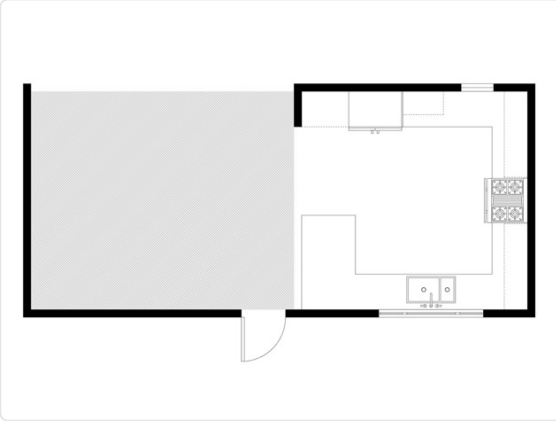
YOUR NEXT STEPS

We hope our *How to Create a 2D Floor Plan in SketchUp* video and these notes have gotten you started down the right path.

From here, it's definitely possible to learn everything on your own. But if you don't have the time to figure out what you need to know, and you can't afford to pick up bad habits, we recommend checking out our **Video Course Library**.

It includes our SketchUp for Interiors course, where we walk you through best practices for using SketchUp on real client projects.

Explore SketchUp for Interiors



SketchUp for Interiors — one of the courses in the Video Course Library