

Claude Code Settings Reference

Configuration paths & Claude Desktop setup guide

User-Level Settings

~/claude/	
settings.json	Global user preferences
CLAUDE.md	Personal instructions for all projects
commands/	Custom slash commands
.claude.json	OAuth tokens & caches

Project-Level Settings

.claude/ (in project root)	
settings.json	Shared project settings (git)
settings.local.json	Personal project settings (gitignored)
CLAUDE.md	Team project instructions (git)
CLAUDE.local.md	Personal project notes (gitignored)
rules/	Modular instruction files (*.md)
commands/	Project-specific commands

Root-Level Alternatives

Project root (./)	
CLAUDE.md	Project briefing (alternative location)
CLAUDE.local.md	Personal notes (gitignored)

Managed Settings (Enterprise)

macOS:	/Library/Application Support/ClaudeCode/
Linux:	/etc/claude-code/
Windows:	C:\Program Files\ClaudeCode\

Contains managed-settings.json and CLAUDE.md for org-wide config

Claude Desktop Connectors (MCP)

Set up file editing in Claude Desktop to modify Claude Code settings

Config File Location

macOS:	~/Library/Application Support/Claude/claude_desktop_config.json
Windows:	%APPDATA%\Claude\claude_desktop_config.json

1. Open Claude Desktop Settings (gear icon)
2. Click Developer tab
3. Click "Edit Config" to open config file
4. Add the MCP server config below
5. Save and restart Claude Desktop

Example MCP Configuration:

```
{
  "mcpServers": {
    "filesystem": {
      "command": "npx",
      "args": [
        "-y",
        "@anthropic-ai/mcp-server-filesystem",
        // Add paths Claude Desktop can access:
        "~/claude/",
        "/path/to/your/project"
      ]
    }
  }
}
```

Common Settings Examples

Allow tools without prompts (settings.json)

```
{
  "permissions": {
    "allow": [
      "Bash(npm run dev)",
      "Bash(git status)"
    ]
  }
}
```

Project instructions (CLAUDE.md)

```
# Project: My App
- Use TypeScript
- Prefer functional components
- Run tests before committing
```

Quick Commands

/memory	View/edit all loaded memory files
/init	Bootstrap a new CLAUDE.md
claude config	View/edit Claude Code settings