Keyboard Shortcuts for File Explorer in Windows 11

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Navigation Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
Windows key + E	Open File Explorer
Ctrl + N	Open a new File Explorer window
Ctrl + W or Ctrl + F4	Close the current File Explorer window
Ctrl + Shift + N	Create a new folder
Alt + D	Select the address bar
Ctrl + L	Also select the address bar
Ctrl + Tab	Switch to the next tab (if using tabbed navigation)
Ctrl + Shift + Tab	Switch to the previous tab
Ctrl + T	Open a new tab
Ctrl + W	Close the current tab
Alt + Left Arrow	Go back to the previous folder
Alt + Right Arrow	Go forward to the next folder
Alt + Up Arrow	Go up one folder level
F4	Display the address bar list
F3	Search for a file or folder
Ctrl + F	Also search within the window
Tab	Move forward through options
Shift + Tab	Move backward through options
End	Go to the bottom of the window
Home	Go to the top of the window
Up Arrow/Down Arrow	Move up or down through items
Left Arrow/Right Arrow	Collapse or expand the current folder (in the navigation pane)

Selection and Editing Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl + A	Select all items in the current window
Ctrl + Click	Select multiple individual items
Shift + Click	Select a range of items between two points
Shift + Arrow Keys	Extend selection by one item at a time
Ctrl + Shift + Arrow Keys	Extend selection to the first or last item in a group
Ctrl + Spacebar	Select or deselect the focused item
Spacebar	(with focus on an item) Toggle selection of the item
F2	Rename selected item
Delete	Move selected items to the Recycle Bin
Shift + Delete	Permanently delete selected items without moving to the Recycle Bin
Ctrl + C	Copy selected items
Ctrl + X	Cut selected items
Ctrl + V	Paste copied or cut items
Ctrl + Z	Undo an action
Ctrl + Y	Redo an action
Ctrl + Shift + N	Create a new folder
Ctrl + Shift + E	Expand all folders in the navigation pane
Alt + Enter	Open properties of the selected file or folder
F6	Cycle through elements in the window

File and Folder Management Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
Ctrl + Shift + 1	Change folder view (Extra large icons)
Ctrl + Shift + 2	Change folder view (Large icons)
Ctrl + Shift + 3	Change folder view (Medium icons)
Ctrl + Shift + 4	Change folder view (Small icons)
Ctrl + Shift + 5	Change folder view (List)
Ctrl + Shift + 6	Change folder view (Details)
Ctrl + Shift + 7	Change folder view (Tiles)
Ctrl + Shift + 8	Change folder view (Content)
Ctrl + Shift + E	Display all folders (navigation pane)
Alt + P	Show or hide the preview pane
Alt + Shift + P	Show or hide the details pane
Ctrl + Shift + N	Create a new folder
Alt + F, then O	Open the File menu, then open a new window
Alt + F, then S	Open the File menu, then access settings
Alt + V, then D	Switch to details view
Alt + V, then L	Switch to list view
Alt + V, then N	Switch to navigation pane

Search Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
F3	Search File Explorer
Ctrl + F	Search within the current folder
Ctrl + E	Focus on the search box

Ribbon and Menu Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
Alt	Show Key Tips for ribbons and menus
Alt + F	Open the File menu
Alt + H	Open the Home tab
Alt + N	Open the Share tab
Alt + V	Open the View tab
Alt + Y	Open contextual tabs (when available)
Alt + Enter	Open Properties dialog

Quick Access and Favorites Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
Alt + Z	Add current folder to Quick Access
Alt + Up Arrow	Go up to parent folder
Ctrl + D	Pin current folder to Quick Access

Miscellaneous Shortcuts:

Shortcut	Action
F11	Enter or exit full-screen mode
Ctrl + Shift + Esc	Open Task Manager (works everywhere, useful if File Explorer freezes)
Ctrl + Shift + Number (1-8)	Change folder view modes

Alt + Space	Open window menu (move, size, minimize, maximize, close)
Shift + F10	Opens context menu (same as right click)
Right Arrow (in navigation pane)	Expand current folder
Left Arrow (in navigation pane)	Collapse current folder
Ctrl + Mouse Wheel	Zoom in and out in file/folder view

