

Ultimate VS Code Cheat Sheet

Top keyboard shortcuts and power settings that keep you in flow. Updated for modern VS Code, without tying this guide to a specific year.

Tip: Print this PDF or keep it open on a second screen. The shortcuts are grouped by what you are doing: navigating, editing, refactoring, layout, configuration, and debugging.

1. The Navigation Essentials

Stop hunting through file trees. These shortcuts let you jump across your codebase fast.

Action	Windows / Linux	macOS
Command Palette (The Hub)	Ctrl + Shift + P	Cmd + Shift + P
Quick Open (Find File)	Ctrl + P	Cmd + P
Go to Line	Ctrl + G	Ctrl + G
Go to Symbol (Function)	Ctrl + Shift + O	Cmd + Shift + O
Toggle Sidebar	Ctrl + B	Cmd + B
Close Editor Tab	Ctrl + W	Cmd + W
Reopen Closed Tab	Ctrl + Shift + T	Cmd + Shift + T

2. Speed Editing

This is where most of your time is spent. Multi-cursors and line operations can change your daily throughput.

Action	Windows / Linux	macOS
Multi-Cursor (Click)	Alt + Click	Opt + Click
Move Line Up/Down	Alt + Up / Down	Opt + Up / Down
Copy Line Up/Down	Shift + Alt + Up	Shift + Opt + Up
Add Cursor Above/Below	Ctrl + Alt + Up	Cmd + Opt + Up
Select All Occurrences	Ctrl + Shift + L	Cmd + Shift + L
Delete Line	Ctrl + Shift + K	Cmd + Shift + K
Cut Line (Empty Selection)	Ctrl + X	Cmd + X

3. Refactoring and Formatting

Use these to rename, format, and comment without breaking your flow.

Action	Windows / Linux	macOS
Rename Symbol (Refactor)	F2	F2
Toggle Line Comment	Ctrl + /	Cmd + /
Toggle Block Comment	Shift + Alt + A	Shift + Opt + A
Format Document	Shift + Alt + F	Shift + Opt + F
Fold Code Block	Ctrl + Shift + [	Cmd + Opt + [
Unfold Code Block	Ctrl + Shift +]	Cmd + Opt +]

4. Terminal and Window Layout

Manage splits, terminals, and focus modes without dragging panels around.

Action	Windows / Linux	macOS
Split Editor (Side-by-Side)	Ctrl + \	Cmd + \
Toggle Terminal	Ctrl + `	Ctrl + `
Create New Terminal	Ctrl + Shift + `	Ctrl + Shift + `
Toggle Zen Mode (Focus)	Ctrl + K then Z	Cmd + K then Z
Zoom In	Ctrl + =	Cmd + =
Zoom Out	Ctrl + -	Cmd + -

5. "God Mode" Configuration

Shortcuts help, but real power lives in **settings.json**. Open the Command Palette and choose **Open User Settings (JSON)**, then paste or adapt these.

```
/* --- VISUAL MINIMALISM --- */
"workbench.activityBar.location": "hidden", // Hides the big left sidebar icons
"workbench.statusBar.visible": false,      // Hides the bottom status bar
"breadcrumbs.enabled": false,              // Removes top breadcrumbs
"editor.minimap.enabled": false,           // Disables the minimap

/* --- AUTOMATION & HYGIENE --- */
"editor.formatOnSave": true,               // Never manually format again
"files.trimTrailingWhitespace": true,      // Cleans up your code automatically
"editor.bracketPairColorization.enabled": true,

/* --- AI FEATURES (COPILOT AND CHAT) --- */
"github.copilot.editor.enableAutoCompletions": true,
"chat.viewSessions.orientation": "sideBySide" // Keeps chat next to your code
```

6. Debugging and AI Assist

Use the debugger for real signals, and use AI assist where it helps: quick explanations, fixes, and refactors. Keep control of the final change.

Action	Shortcut (Universal)
Toggle Breakpoint (Stop here)	F9
Start / Continue Debugging	F5
Step Over (Next line)	F10
Step Into (Enter function)	F11
New AI Chat Session	Ctrl + Alt + I

Next: Want your editor to look as good as it works? Consider a curated theme list and a clean font setup. Keep it minimal and readable.

Source: <https://www.windowsmode.com>