

MrSID Format Support for AutoCAD

User Guide

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Supported Versions: AutoCAD 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027 (Windows 64-bit)

Version: 1.0.0

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1. What Does This Plugin Do?

This plugin adds native MrSID (.sid) raster image support to AutoCAD. Once installed, you can open, display, and work with .sid files using AutoCAD's standard image tools — no file conversion needed.

Key Benefits

- .sid files appear in AutoCAD's standard file dialogs
- No BMP/TIFF conversion — pixels decoded on-the-fly
- Georeferenced images placed at correct real-world coordinates automatically
- Supports MrSID Generation 2, 3, and 4 formats
- Works with large satellite/aerial imagery efficiently

2. Installation

From the Autodesk App Store

1. Download the plugin from the Autodesk App Store
2. Run the downloaded installer (or extract the ZIP)
3. The plugin is automatically installed to:
%APPDATA%\Autodesk\ApplicationPlugins\MrSIDAcadPlugin.bundle\
4. Restart AutoCAD
5. The plugin loads automatically on startup

Verify Installation

After AutoCAD starts, check the command line. You should see:

```
MrSID Format Codec registered - .sid files supported natively.  
MrSID Plugin loaded. Use MRSIDIMPORT or -IMAGEATTACH for .sid files.
```

To confirm .sid support is active:

1. Type -IMAGEATTACH and press Enter
2. In the file dialog, check the file type dropdown — "MrSID (*.sid)" should appear

3. How to Use

Method 1: MRSIDIMPORT Command (Easiest)

1. Type MRSIDIMPORT and press Enter
2. A file dialog opens — select your .sid file
3. The image is inserted into model space

4. If the file has georeferencing, it is placed at the correct coordinates
5. Type ZOOM E to fit the image to screen

Method 2: -IMAGEATTACH (AutoCAD Built-in)

1. Type -IMAGEATTACH and press Enter
2. Change the file type filter to "MrSID (*.sid)"
3. Select your .sid file
4. Follow the standard AutoCAD prompts for insertion point, scale, and rotation
5. The image appears in the drawing

Method 3: IMAGE Manager

1. Type IMAGE to open the Image Manager palette
2. Click Attach (or right-click > Attach)
3. Select your .sid file
4. Set insertion parameters
5. Click OK

Method 4: Drag and Drop

1. Open Windows Explorer
2. Drag a .sid file directly into the AutoCAD viewport
3. The image is inserted automatically

4. Working with Georeferenced Images

MrSID files often contain embedded georeferencing (real-world coordinates). When using MRSIDIMPORT:

- The plugin reads the geo-transform from the .sid metadata
- The image is placed at the correct map coordinates automatically
- Scale is applied based on pixel resolution (meters/pixel)

Tips

- After inserting, type ZOOM E to see the image (it may be far from the origin)
- Select the image and check the Properties palette to see origin coordinates
- Use LIST command on the image entity for detailed info
- Set the correct coordinate system in AutoCAD (e.g., UTM zone) before inserting

5. Commands Reference

Command	Description
MRSIDIMPORT	Open file dialog, select .sid, insert with georeferencing
-IMAGEATTACH	Standard AutoCAD image attach (now supports .sid)
IMAGE	Image Manager palette (lists all attached images)
ZOOM E	Zoom to show all objects including the inserted image
REGEN	Force display regeneration if image does not render
IMAGEFRAME	Toggle image border: 0=off, 1=on, 2=on but not plotted
TRANSPARENCY	Toggle image transparency
IMAGEADJUST	Adjust brightness, contrast, and fade
IMAGECLIP	Clip the image to a boundary
IMAGEDETACH	Remove an attached image from the drawing

6. System Requirements

Component	Requirement
AutoCAD	2024, 2025, 2026, or 2027 (64-bit)
OS	Windows 10 or Windows 11 (64-bit)
Runtime	Visual C++ Redistributable 2022 (x64)
Disk	~50 MB for plugin + SDK DLLs

7. Troubleshooting

Problem	Solution
Plugin does not load on startup	Verify the .bundle folder exists in %APPDATA%\Autodesk\ApplicationPlugins\ Restart AutoCAD.
"Format Codec registration failed"	Ensure your AutoCAD version is 2024-2027. Check for conflicting plugins.
.sid not in file dialog filter	Reload the plugin: type APPLOAD, browse to MrSIDAcadPlugin.arx, click Load.

Image frame shows but no pixels	Type REGEN to force a display refresh.
Image not visible after insert	The image may be at georeferenced coordinates far from origin. Type ZOOM E.
Plugin crashes on load	Ensure all runtime DLLs are present in the same folder as the .arx file. Install Visual C++ Redistributable 2022.
Large .sid file is slow	This is normal for very large files. The plugin decodes only visible pixels — try zooming in.
Coordinate mismatch	Ensure AutoCAD's coordinate system matches the .sid file's projection (e.g., UTM zone).

8. Uninstalling

From App Store Installation

1. Go to Windows Settings > Apps & Features
2. Find "MrSID Format Support for AutoCAD"
3. Click Uninstall

Manual Removal

1. Delete the folder: %APPDATA%\Autodesk\ApplicationPlugins\MrSIDAcadPlugin.bundle\
2. Restart AutoCAD

9. Supported MrSID Formats

Format	Version	Support
MrSID Generation 2 (MG2)	v2.x	Read
MrSID Generation 3 (MG3)	v3.x	Read
MrSID Generation 4 (MG4)	v4.x	Read

Note: Writing/encoding MrSID files is not supported by this plugin.

10. Support & License

Contact

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License

- Plugin: MIT License
- MrSID SDK runtime DLLs: LizardTech license
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