

YouTube Requirements and Suggestions

We accept most video file formats, including .wmv, .mov, .mpg, or .avi. If your video meets these minimum requirements and still won't upload, there may be a problem with the video compression you're using. We recommend the MPEG4 format at 640x480 resolution with MP3 audio.

Recommended settings:

Resizing your video to these specifications before uploading will help your videos look better on YouTube.

- MPEG4 (Divx, Xvid) format
 - 640x480 resolution (* most updated recommendation)
 - MP3 audio
 - 30 frames per second

Videos uploaded through YouTube's Single File Uploader have to be under the 100MB file size limit. The longer the video is, the more compression will be required to fit it into that size. For that reason, most videos on YouTube are under five minutes long and there is a 10-minute length limit for all videos.

You can compress your video using movie editors, like Windows MovieMaker or Apple iMovie. Programs like these allow you to edit your videos, add soundtracks, and compress file sizes.

If you choose to use the YouTube Uploader, your video can be up to 1GB in size

Digital and Analog Camcorders

If you already have a digital camcorder (one that captures in Digital8, MiniDV, HDV, or any of the DVD formats), then you're ready to start shooting your masterpiece. Your camcorder will need some kind of direct connection to your computer, either to the USB or FireWire ports or by inserting the DVD you've recorded. Once you've downloaded the video from the camera, you can upload it to YouTube or bring it into an editing program to play with it some more.

If you have an analog camcorder (one that uses VHS, VHS-C, SVHS-C, 8mm, or Hi8 tape), you can still get your videos onto YouTube. It will require an extra step and some additional equipment, though, since these camcorders are not usually equipped with computer connections. You will need to digitize the video with a converter box, which will convert the analog signal from the camcorder to a digital signal that the computer can understand. After the video has been digitized, you can manipulate it further or upload it.