

# Package ‘dotenv’

May 8, 2026

**Title** Load Environment Variables from '.env'

**Version** 1.0.3

**Description** Load configuration from a '.env' file, that is  
in the current working directory, into environment variables.

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**URL** <https://github.com/gaborcsardi/dotenv>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/gaborcsardi/dotenv/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 5.0.1.9000

**Encoding** UTF-8

**NeedsCompilation** no

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dotenv-package	<i>Load configuration parameters from .env into environment variables</i>
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## Description

It has become a practice to store configuration parameters related to a project, in a hidden file called `.env`, in the working directory of a project, and then set them as environment variables.

**Details**

This package loads the variables defined in the `.env` file in the current working directory (as reported by `getwd`), and sets them as environment variables.

This happens automatically when the `dotenv` package is loaded, so the typical use-case is to just put a `library(dotenv)` code at the beginning of your R script.

Alternatively a `dotenv::load_dot_env()` call can be used to load variables from arbitrary files.

The format of the `.env` file is also a valid unix shell file format, so e.g. in bash the environment variables can also be set by running `source .env`.

See [load\\_dot\\_env](#) for the exact file format.

**See Also**

`load_dot_env`

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`load_dot_env`

*Load environment variables from the specified file*

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**Description**

Load variables defined in the given file, as environment variables.

**Usage**

```
load_dot_env(file = ".env")
```

**Arguments**

`file`                    The name of the file to use.

**Details**

The file is parsed line by line, and line is expected to have one of the following formats:

```
VARIABLE=value
VARIABLE2="quoted value"
VARIABLE3='another quoted variable'
# Comment line
export EXPORTED="exported variable"
export EXPORTED2=another
```

In more details:

- A leading `export` is ignored, to keep the file compatible with Unix shells.
- No whitespace is allowed right before or after the equal sign, again, to promote compatibility with Unix shells.
- No multi-line variables are supported currently. The file is strictly parsed line by line.

- Unlike for Unix shells, unquoted values are *not* terminated by whitespace.
- Comments start with #, without any leading whitespace. You cannot mix variable definitions and comments in the same line.
- Empty lines (containing whitespace only) are ignored.

It is suggested to keep the file in a form that is parsed the same way with dotenv and bash (or other shells).

### Examples

```
# Remove, if it exists
Sys.unsetenv("dotenvexamplefoo")
Sys.getenv("dotenvexamplefoo")

# Load from a file
tmp <- tempfile()
cat("dotenvexamplefoo=bar\n", file = tmp)
load_dot_env(tmp)
Sys.getenv("dotenvexamplefoo")

# Clean up
unlink(tmp)
```

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