



Database Cleanup Checklist

A reference guide to help you clean up a messy database.

Step 1: Document

Document your current database.

Query and export your schema using the data dictionary:

```
SELECT table_name, column_name, data_type
FROM information_schema.columns ORDER BY
table_name;
```

Or, use your editor's built-in diagramming feature to create one or more ERDs

Step 2: Analyse

Find out:

- which tables are active
- which columns are populated, empty, or NULL
- duplicate or inconsistent values
- and more

Step 3: Refactor

- Make changes safely and incrementally
- Start with simple wins
- Avoid big changes: break them down into several smaller changes

Step 4: Modernise

Add automation:

- Automated testing
- Version-controlled schema
- Schema migration (e.g. Flyway, Liquibase)
- CI/CD (Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment)