

How to Import an Access MDB File into an Existing SQL Server Database

You can import an Access .mdb file into an existing SQL Server database using several methods, from Microsoft's official tools to third-party utilities and SSIS.

Remember: If moving an Access db to an MSSQL Server db for use in Color iControl, make sure that the Color iControl versions are the same.

1. Using Microsoft SQL Server Migration Assistant (SSMA) - Preferred method

SSMA is Microsoft's official tool for migrating Access databases to SQL Server:

1. **Install SSMA** for SQL Server (download from Microsoft's site).
2. **Open SSMA** and connect to your existing SQL Server database.
3. **Add the Access database** by selecting the MDB file and choosing the target SQL Server database/schema.
4. **Map tables and columns** if needed, adjusting data type mappings for best compatibility.
5. **Run the migration** — SSMA will generate and execute T-SQL scripts to create tables and insert data.

Advantages: Preserves Access front-end objects (forms, queries) as linked tables in SQL Server.

2. Using SSMS Data Pump (SQL Server Management Studio) [Devart](#)

If you have SQL Server Management Studio:

1. In **Object Explorer**, right-click your database → **Data Pump** → **Import Data**.
2. On the **Source** page, select **MS Access import format** and browse to your .mdb file.
3. On the **Destination** page, choose your existing SQL Server database and schema.
4. Select **Existing table** to import into an existing table, or **New table** if you want to create one.
5. On the **Data formats** page, configure date/time, null, and decimal formats.

6. On the **Mapping** page, map Access columns to SQL Server columns.
7. Click **Run** to start the import.

Tip: If your MDB is password-protected, SSMS will prompt for the password before opening it.

3. Using SSIS (SQL Server Integration Services) [SQL Server Tips](#)

For more control or custom transformations:

1. Open **SQL Server Data Tools** and create a new SSIS project.
2. Add a **Data Flow Task**.
3. Add an **OLE DB Source** and configure it to connect to the Access database using the **Microsoft Office 12.0 Access Database Engine OLE DB Provider**.
4. Add an **OLE DB Destination** and configure it to connect to your existing SQL Server database.
5. Map Access columns to SQL Server columns.
6. Execute the package to import data.

4. Using Third-Party Tools www.dataconversioncenter.com+1

Tools like **Access to T-SQL Script Builder** or **Devart Data Pump** can:

- Read the MDB file in-browser (no file upload).
- Generate T-SQL scripts for your SQL Server instance.
- Allow manual type mapping and format settings.
- Run scripts directly in SQL Server Management Studio.

Best Practices

- **Use the back-end MDB** if you have a split database (front-end + back-end) — it contains only the data tables.
- **Check data types** and adjust mappings to avoid truncation or overflow.
- **Test with a small dataset** before running the full import.
- **Backup your SQL Server database** before starting.

Recommendation: For a quick, automated migration, use SSMA or SSMS Data Pump. For complex transformations or integration with other systems, use SSIS or a third-party tool.