



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Include Tags](http://codex.wordpress.org/Include_Tags)

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Include Tags

The Template **include tags** are used within one [Template](#) file (for example `index.php`) to execute the [HTML](#) and [PHP](#) found in another template file (for example `header.php`). [PHP](#) (<http://www.php.net>) has a built in [include\(\)](#) (<http://us3.php.net/manual/en/function.include.php>) statement for this purpose, but these WordPress template tags make including certain specific files much easier.

See [Using Themes](#) and [Theme Development](#) for more information about Templates and Themes.

The Header Template

```
<?php get_header(); ?>
```

This tag includes the file `header.php` from your current theme's directory. If that file is not found, it will instead include `wp-content/themes/default/header.php`.

The Footer Template

```
<?php get_footer(); ?>
```

This tag includes the file `footer.php` from your current theme's directory. If that file is not found, it will instead include `wp-content/themes/default/footer.php`.

The Sidebar Template

```
<?php get_sidebar(); ?>
```

This tag includes the file `sidebar.php` from your current theme's directory. If that file is not found, it will instead include `wp-content/themes/default/sidebar.php`.

The Comments Template

```
<?php comments_template(); ?>
```

This tag includes the file `comments.php` from your current theme's directory. If that file is not found, it will instead include `wp-content/themes/default/comments.php`.

Including Any Template

WordPress offers the above tags for including those specific [Templates](#), but there is also a convenient way to include *any* file. To do so, you will need to use the [include](#) (<http://us2.php.net/manual/en/function.include.php>) [PHP](#)

function, and a constant WordPress conveniently defines for you to make things easy: `TEMPLATEPATH`.

Suppose you want to include a file called `header2.php`. Just insert the following line in your template where you want that file's information to appear.

```
<?php include (TEMPLATEPATH . '/header2.php'); ?>
```

You could, for example, use this as a means of including a different header instead of the normal `header.php` which would be included with [get_header\(\)](#).

NOTE: `TEMPLATEPATH` is a reference to the absolute path to the current theme directory (without the `/` at the end). For information on referencing URIs rather than including files, see [Referencing Files From a Template](#).

Example

The following is a very simple example of a template for an "HTTP 404: Not Found" error (which you could include in your [Theme](#) as `404.php`).

```
<?php get_header(); ?>
<h2>Error 404 - Not Found</h2>
<?php get_sidebar(); ?>
<?php get_footer(); ?>
```

Parameters

These tags do not accept any parameters.