

Image Analysis for ArcGIS FAQs¹



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How Do I Import DEMs?

You can import standard USGS Digital Elevation Models using ArcToolbox. You can choose either Import to Raster (Arc Grid) or Import to IMAGINE Image. This document explains how to import a USGS DEM into an Arc Grid format.

What You Will Need and Other Assumptions

- A standard USGS DEM
- The USGS DEM importers in ArcToolbox will give slightly different MIN and MAX elevation values compared with ERDAS Imagine's USGS DEM importer

Overview of Steps

1. Use the Conversion Tools option in ArcToolbox to import your DEM.
2. Select the USGS DEM importer you wish to use (e.g., DEM to Grid or DEM to Imagine).
3. Specify the necessary parameters to complete the import process.
4. Inspect the results.

Step-by-Step Example

1. Start ArcToolbox from your Desktop, or on the Windows Taskbar click **Start | Programs | ArcGIS | ArcToolbox**.
2. Navigate to and start the DEM to Grid tool by double-clicking **Conversion Tools | Import to Raster | DEM to Grid** in the ArcToolbox menu.
3. Navigate to and select your USGS DEM as your **Input File**.
4. Set the **Grid Type** to **Integer**.
5. Navigate to your project directory and specify an **Output Grid** for your new DEM.
6. Click **OK** to begin the import process.
7. Start ArcMap, add your new DEM to the Table of Contents, and inspect the results.

¹ Produced by the USDA Forest Service RSAC (<http://fsweb.rsac.fs.fed.us>). A Forest Service version of Image Analysis for ArcGIS was used to develop this reference document. No warranty is made as to completeness or accuracy.