

Using CSS in **Django** is simple once you understand how Django handles **static files**.

Here's a step-by-step guide ☐

1 ☐ Create a Static Folder

Inside your Django app (for example, `myapp`), create this structure:

```
myapp/
├── static/
│   └── myapp/
│       └── style.css
├── templates/
│   └── myapp/
│       └── index.html
```

Best practice: Keep CSS inside `static/app_name/`

2 ☐ Add CSS File

Create `style.css`:

```
body {
    background-color: lightblue;
}

h1 {
    color: darkblue;
}
```

3 ☐ Configure `settings.py`

Make sure these settings exist:

```
STATIC_URL = '/static/'

# Optional (recommended in development)
STATICFILES_DIRS = [
    BASE_DIR / "static",
]
```

4 Load Static in Template

In your `index.html`:

```
{% load static %}
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
  <link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'myapp/style.css' %}">
</head>
<body>
  <h1>Hello Django</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

5 Run Server

```
python manage.py runserver
```

Visit:

```
http://127.0.0.1:8000/
```

Your CSS should now apply

Alternative: Global Static Folder

You can also create a project-level static folder:

```
project/
├── static/
│   └── css/
│       └── style.css
```

Then reference:

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'css/style.css' %}">
```

❑ Common Mistakes

- Forgetting `{% load static %}`
 - Wrong file path inside `{% static %}`
 - Not restarting server after settings change
 - `DEBUG = False` without running `collectstatic`
-

Note:-

if you're using the `os` method (instead of `pathlib`) in `settings.py`, here's how to configure static files properly.

1 ❑ Import `os` in `settings.py`:-

At the top of your `settings.py`:

```
import os
```

```
STATIC_URL = '/static/'
```

```
STATICFILES_DIRS = [  
    os.path.join(BASE_DIR, 'static'),  
]
```

Now let's use **Bootstrap 5** in your Django project (`myproject`, `app: pages`).

There are **2 easy ways** to use Bootstrap 5:-

❑ **METHOD 1 (EASIEST) — Using Bootstrap 5 CDN** ❑

This is the fastest and recommended way for beginners.

❑ **Step 1 — Open Your Template**

Open:

```
pages/templates/pages/index.html
```

❑ **Step 2 — Add Bootstrap 5 CDN**

Inside `<head>` add this:

```
{% load static %}
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>Home</title>

    <!-- Bootstrap 5 CSS -->
    <link
href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.3.2/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css
"
        rel="stylesheet">

    <!-- Your Custom CSS -->
    <link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'pages/css/style.css' %}">
</head>
```

□ Step 3 — Add Bootstrap JS (Before Closing body)

Add before `</body>`:

```
<!-- Bootstrap 5 JS -->
<script
src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.3.2/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle.mi
n.js"></script>
```

□ Step 4 — Use Bootstrap Classes

Now you can use Bootstrap classes in your HTML:

```
<body class="bg-light">

<div class="container mt-5">
  <div class="card shadow p-4">
    <h1 class="text-primary">Welcome to MyProject</h1>
    <button class="btn btn-success mt-3">Click Me</button>
  </div>
</div>

</body>
```

Run server:

```
python manage.py runserver
```

You now have Bootstrap 5 working □

□ METHOD 2 — Download Bootstrap (Offline Method)

If you want Bootstrap stored inside your project:

□ Step 1 — Download Bootstrap

Go to:

□ <https://getbootstrap.com>

Download compiled CSS & JS.

□ Step 2 — Place Files in Static Folder

Structure:

```
pages/
├── static/
│   └── pages/
│       ├── css/
│       │   ├── style.css
│       │   └── bootstrap.min.css
│       └── js/
│           └── bootstrap.bundle.min.js
```

□ Step 3 — Load in Template

```
<link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'pages/css/bootstrap.min.css' %}">
<link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'pages/css/style.css' %}">
```

```
<script src="{% static 'pages/js/bootstrap.bundle.min.js' %}"></script>
```

□ BEST PRACTICE (Professional Way)

Create a base template.

🔗 `base.html`

```
{% load static %}
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>{% block title %}MyProject{% endblock %}</title>

    <link
href="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.3.2/dist/css/bootstrap.min.css"
"
        rel="stylesheet">

    <link rel="stylesheet" href="{% static 'pages/css/style.css' %}">
</head>
```

```
<body>

{% block content %}
{% endblock %}

<script
src="https://cdn.jsdelivr.net/npm/bootstrap@5.3.2/dist/js/bootstrap.bundle.mi
n.js"></script>
</body>
</html>
```

Then in `index.html`:

```
{% extends 'pages/base.html' %}

{% block content %}
<div class="container mt-5">
  <h1 class="text-danger">Bootstrap is Working ❑</h1>
{% endblock %}
```

❑ Final Recommendation

- ✓ Use CDN while learning
- ✓ Use base template
- ✓ Keep custom CSS after Bootstrap