

How can I use conditional formatting in Excel to highlight a cell if it falls within a specific date range?

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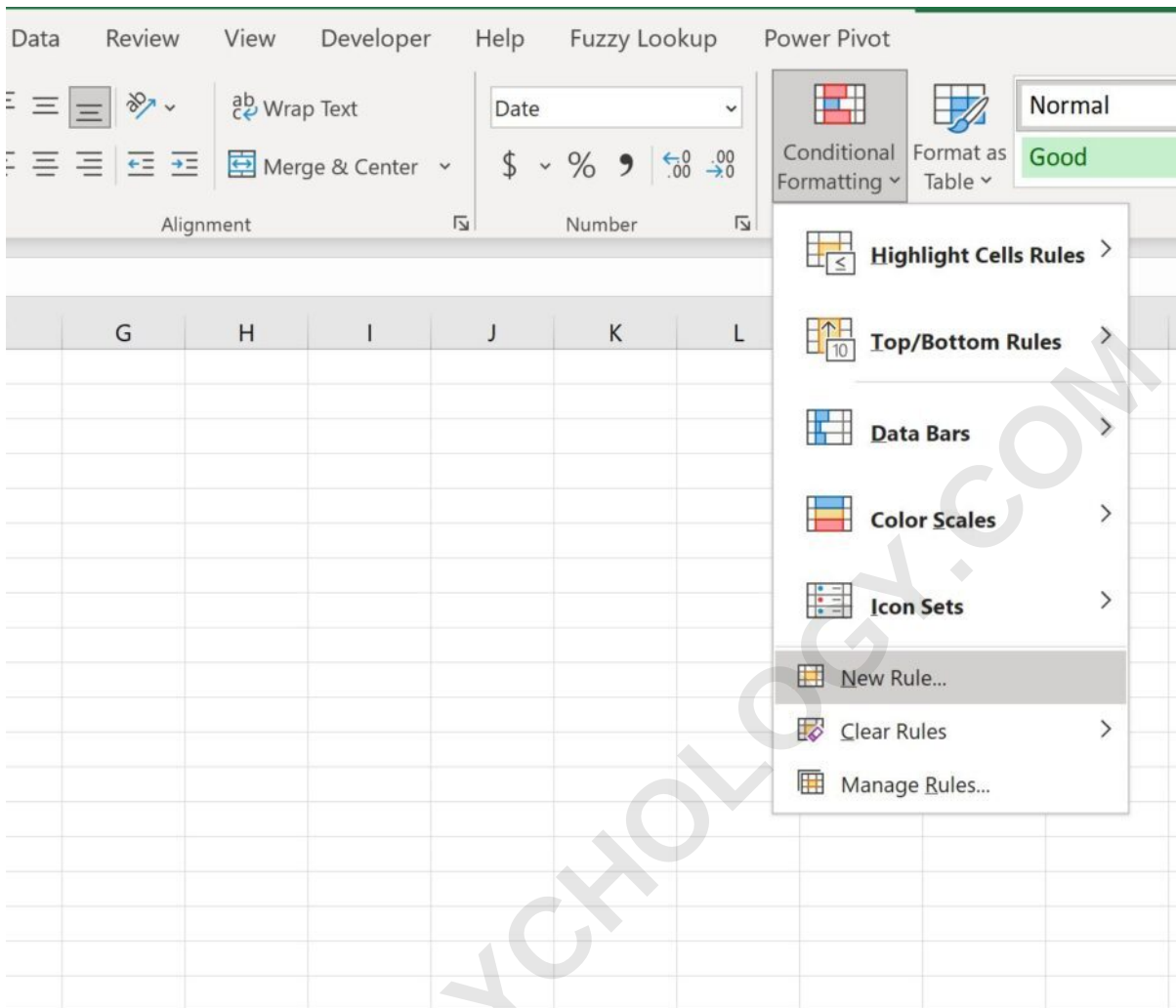
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Conditional formatting in Excel allows for the automatic formatting of cells based on a set of specified conditions. To highlight a cell if it falls within a specific date range, one must first select the desired cell or range of cells. Then, in the Home tab, click on the "Conditional Formatting" button and choose "Highlight Cells Rules" followed by "Between". Input the start and end dates for the desired range and select the desired formatting style. The selected cells will now be automatically highlighted if they fall within the specified date range. This feature is useful for organizing and visually identifying data within a specific time frame.

Excel: Conditional Formatting if Cell is Between Two Dates

To apply conditional formatting to cells that are between two specific dates in Excel, you can use the New Rule option under the Conditional Formatting dropdown menu within the Home tab.



The following example shows how to use this option in practice.

Example: Apply Conditional Formatting if Cell is Between Two Dates

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that shows the number of sales made on various dates at some store:

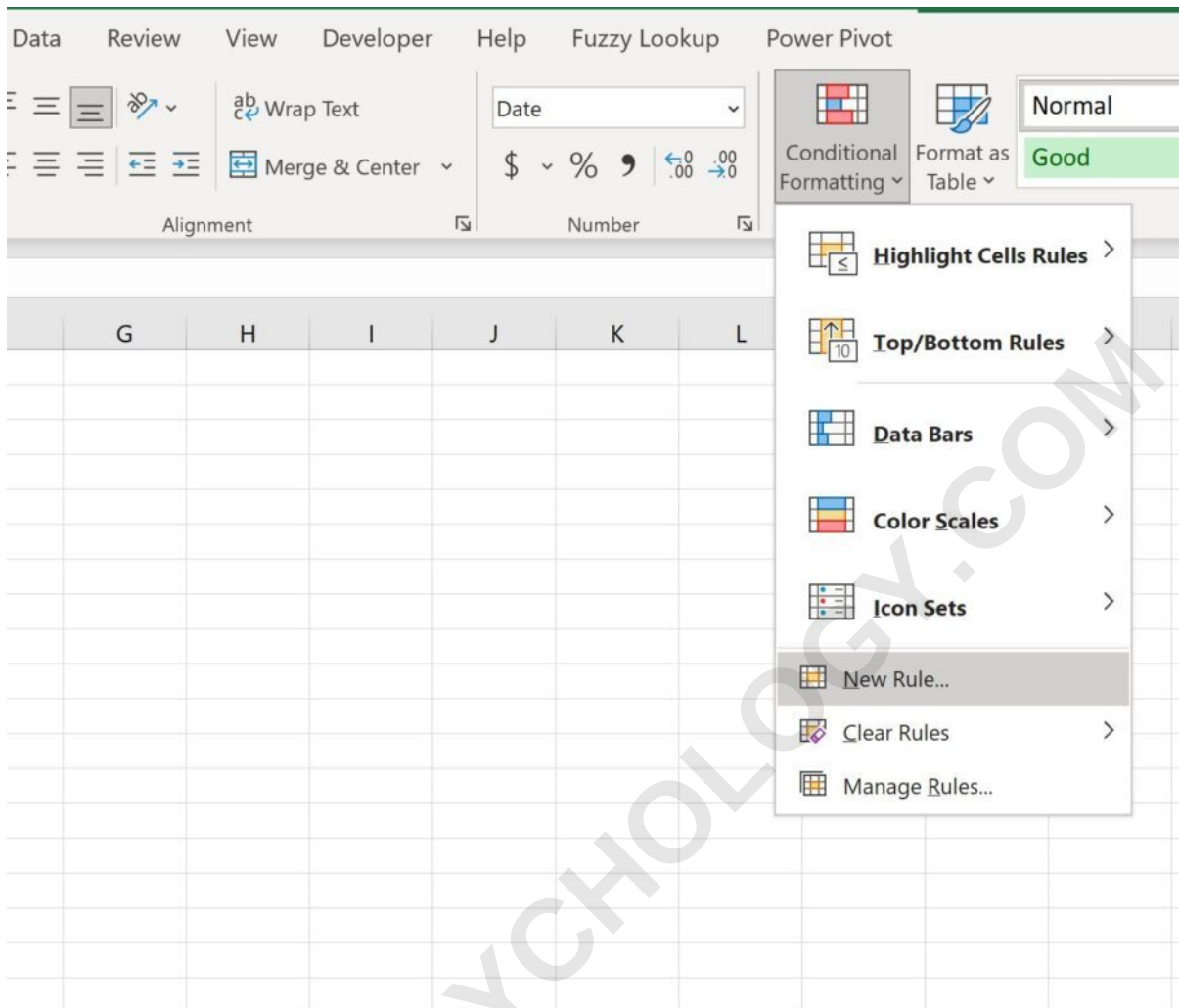
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Sales				
2	1/1/2023	10				
3	1/4/2023	14				
4	1/15/2023	13				
5	1/16/2023	13				
6	2/4/2023	18				
7	2/15/2023	29				
8	2/17/2023	38				
9	3/9/2023	22				
10	3/10/2023	12				
11	3/14/2023	11				
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
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Now suppose that we would like to apply conditional formatting to each row in the dataset that has a date between 1/15/2023 and 2/15/2023.

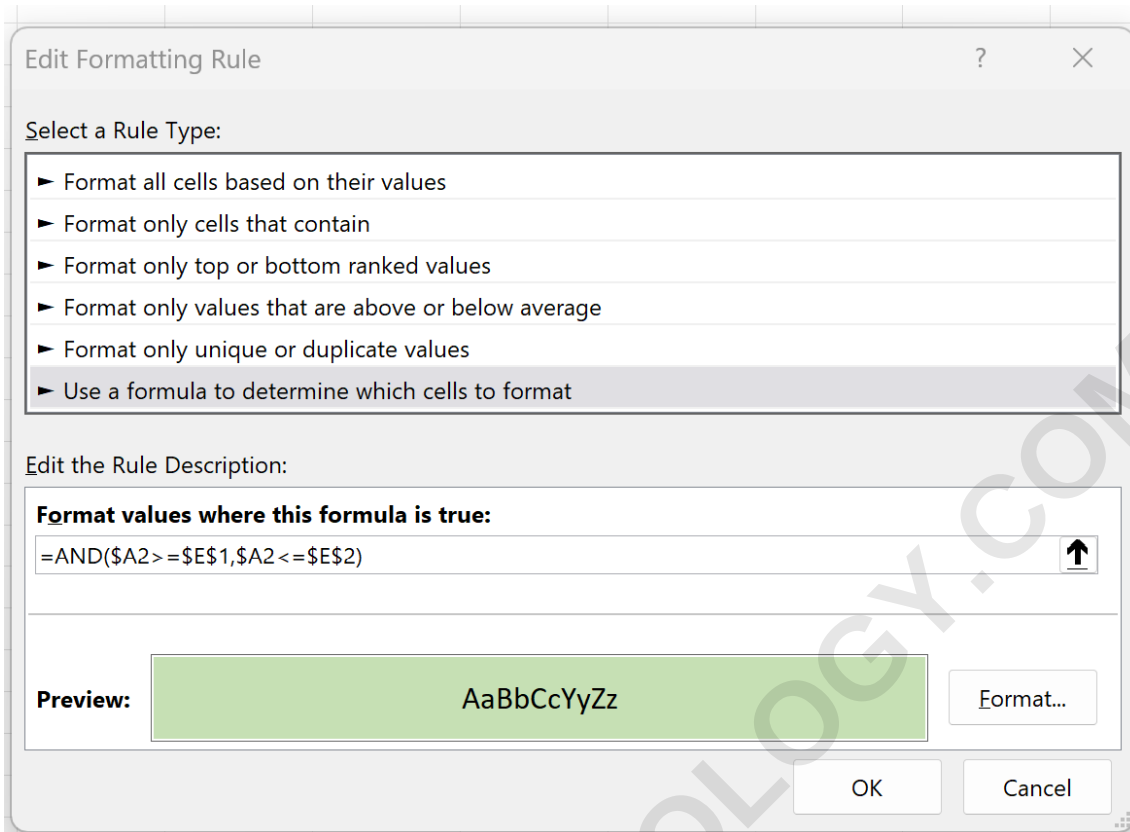
First, we can define these start and end dates in cells E1 and E2, respectively:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Sales		Start Date	1/15/2023	
2	1/1/2023	10		End Date	2/15/2023	
3	1/4/2023	14				
4	1/15/2023	13				
5	1/16/2023	13				
6	2/4/2023	18				
7	2/15/2023	29				
8	2/17/2023	38				
9	3/9/2023	22				
10	3/10/2023	12				
11	3/14/2023	11				
12						
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Next, highlight the cells in the range A2:B11, then click the Conditional Formatting dropdown menu on the Home tab and then click New Rule:



In the new window that appears, click Use a formula to determine which cells to format, then type `=AND($A2>=$E$1,$A2<=$E$2)` in the box, then click the Format button and choose a fill color to use.



Once we press OK, all of the rows in the dataset that have a date between 1/15/2023 and 2/15/2023 will be highlighted:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Date	Sales		Start Date	1/15/2023	
2	1/1/2023	10		End Date	2/15/2023	
3	1/4/2023	14				
4	1/15/2023	13				
5	1/16/2023	13				
6	2/4/2023	18				
7	2/15/2023	29				
8	2/17/2023	38				
9	3/9/2023	22				
10	3/10/2023	12				
11	3/14/2023	11				
12						
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If we change the start or end date to a different date, then the conditional formatting rule will automatically adjust to highlight the correct cells.

For example, suppose we change the end date to 3/15/2023 instead:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1	Date	Sales		Start Date	1/15/2023		
2	1/1/2023	10		End Date	3/15/2023		
3	1/4/2023	14					
4	1/15/2023	13					
5	1/16/2023	13					
6	2/4/2023	18					
7	2/15/2023	29					
8	2/17/2023	38					
9	3/9/2023	22					
10	3/10/2023	12					
11	3/14/2023	11					
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							
17							
18							
19							

Now all rows with a date between 1/15/2023 and 3/15/2023 are highlighted.

Note: We chose to use a light green fill for the conditional formatting in this example, but you can choose any color and style you'd like for the conditional formatting.

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in Excel:

Excel: Apply Conditional Formatting if Cell Contains

Text

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