

How to Calculate a Date 90 Days in the Future Using Excel

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January 30, 2026

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2026). *How to Calculate a Date 90 Days in the Future Using Excel*.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=128649>

Determining a future date based on a specific offset, such as 90 days, is a common requirement in financial planning, project management, and scheduling within Microsoft Excel. Whether you need to track payment deadlines, calculate regulatory compliance windows, or project a task completion date, Excel offers straightforward methods to execute this calculation efficiently. The core technique involves utilizing Excel's intrinsic ability to handle dates as sequential numerical values, allowing for simple arithmetic operations to yield the desired future date. We will explore two primary methods: calculating standard calendar days and calculating working business days, ensuring accuracy regardless of weekends or holidays.

While one might initially consider complex functions like the DATE function, the simplest and most effective formula for adding 90 days involves direct addition. If cell A1 contains your start date, the formula `=A1+90` is sufficient to calculate the date 90 days in the future. This powerful simplicity is central to Excel's date handling, providing immediate results for critical deadlines or payment due dates.

Calculate 90 Days from Date in Excel (With Examples)

The Foundation: Understanding Excel's Serial Number System

To accurately perform date arithmetic, it is essential to understand how Excel stores and processes dates. Unlike typical text strings, dates in Excel are stored as sequential Serial Numbers. By default, Day 1 is January 1, 1900. Every day thereafter is simply an incremented number. For instance, the date January 1, 2024, corresponds to the serial number 45292. This system is what enables calculations like adding 90 days to a date by simply adding the number 90 to the starting Serial Number.

This numerical approach is the bedrock of powerful date manipulation within spreadsheets. When you enter a date into a cell, Excel automatically converts the displayed format (e.g., 01/01/2024) into its underlying numerical equivalent. When you add a number (like 90) to this cell, Excel performs the calculation on the Serial Number and then, ideally, displays the result formatted back as a date. Understanding this distinction is crucial, especially when encountering common formatting errors where the result appears as a large number instead of a recognizable date.

Our focus here is on two distinct calculation methods: calculating 90 standard calendar days, which includes weekends and holidays, and calculating 90 business days, which excludes Saturday and Sunday. Choosing the correct method depends entirely on the context of the deadline or calculation being performed. For instance, contractual obligations often rely on business days, while subscription expiration dates are usually based on calendar days.

Method 1: Calculating 90 Calendar Days (Simple Arithmetic)

The most direct way to determine a date 90 calendar days into the future is through simple addition. Since Excel treats dates as numerical values, adding an integer to a date cell simply advances the date by that many days. This method is fast, requires no special functions, and is ideal for scenarios where every day counts equally, such as loan maturity dates or lease expiration dates. It is the fundamental operation for simple future date projection.

To implement this, you reference the cell containing the start date and add the numerical offset. If your original list of dates begins in cell **A2**, the formula structure remains highly intuitive:

=A2+90

This formula instructs Excel to retrieve the Serial Number value of the date in **A2**, increment that number by 90, and then display the resultant date. This example will reliably return the exact date that is 90 days following the date stored in cell **A2**, regardless of whether those 90 days cross over months, years, or include leap days.

You can use the following formulas in Excel to calculate the date that is 90 days from a specific date:

Detailed Example 1: Standard Calendar Day Calculation Implementation

Consider a scenario where we have a list of start dates and need to calculate the deadline exactly 90 calendar days later for each entry. We begin with our dataset, where column A contains the initial dates. As shown in the image below, our goal is to populate column B with the calculated future date:

	A	B	C	D	
1	Date				
2	1/1/2024				
3	1/5/2024				
4	2/17/2024				
5	3/24/2024				
6	4/1/2024				
7	5/16/2024				
8	6/1/2024				
9	8/12/2024				
10	10/15/2024				
11	11/26/2024				
12	12/1/2024				
13					
14					
15					
16					
17					

To execute the calculation, we must input the straightforward addition formula into the first target cell, **B2**. This calculation directly adds the 90 days to the starting date reference:

=A2+90

After entering the formula into **B2**, we can use the fill handle (the small square at the bottom-right corner of the cell) to drag this calculation down across all remaining rows in column B. This action efficiently applies the 90-day offset calculation to every corresponding date in column A, ensuring consistency across the entire dataset, as illustrated here:

B2 ✕ ✓ fx =A2+90				
	A	B	C	D
1	Date	90 Days from Date		
2	1/1/2024	3/31/2024		
3	1/5/2024	4/4/2024		
4	2/17/2024	5/17/2024		
5	3/24/2024	6/22/2024		
6	4/1/2024	6/30/2024		
7	5/16/2024	8/14/2024		
8	6/1/2024	8/30/2024		
9	8/12/2024	11/10/2024		
10	10/15/2024	1/13/2025		
11	11/26/2024	2/24/2025		
12	12/1/2024	3/1/2025		
13				
14				
15				

Upon completion, each cell in column B clearly displays the date that falls precisely 90 calendar days after the corresponding start date listed in column A. This demonstrates the speed and accuracy of direct date arithmetic for calendar day calculation. For illustrative purposes, observe the outcomes for the first few dates:

90 days after 1/1/2024 is **3/31/2024**.

90 days after 1/5/2024 is **4/4/2024**.

90 days after 2/17/2024 is **5/17/2024**.

Method 2: Calculating 90 Business Days (Using the WORKDAY Function)

When project timelines, contractual obligations, or regulatory deadlines are involved, it is common practice to calculate time based only on business days, excluding weekends (Saturday and Sunday). For this specific requirement, simple date addition is insufficient, as it fails to account for non-working days. Excel provides the robust WORKDAY function specifically for this purpose.

The WORKDAY function calculates the future date by counting only working days forward from a specified start date. Its basic syntax requires two main arguments: the starting date and the number of working days to add. Crucially, the function automatically skips Saturdays and Sundays. It also accepts an optional third argument, a range containing a list of holiday dates, ensuring even greater accuracy for specific geographic or company schedules.

To calculate the date 90 business days from the date in cell **A2**, we use the following formula structure, specifying 90 as the number of workdays to advance:

=WORKDAY(A2, 90)

It is important to remember that this function strictly defines Business Days as the period between Monday and Friday. If your organization requires a different weekend definition (e.g., Sunday and Monday, or only Sunday), you would need to utilize the related function, **WORKDAY.INTL**, which allows for customization of the weekend parameters.

Detailed Example 2: WORKDAY Function Implementation

Using the same set of starting dates from column A, we will now apply the WORKDAY function to determine the date that is 90 business days into the future. This calculation will naturally result in a later calendar date compared to Method 1, as it accounts for 18 weekends (36 non-working days) that must be bypassed during the 90-day count.

We input the formula into cell **B2**, referencing the start date in **A2** and the 90-day offset:

=WORKDAY(A2, 90)

Similar to the first method, we employ the click-and-drag technique to extend this formula down column B, calculating the 90 business days offset for every date in column A. This visual confirms how the dates are significantly pushed forward due to the exclusion of weekends:

B2 ✕ ✓ fx =WORKDAY(A2, 90)				
	A	B	C	D
1	Date	90 Business Days from Date		
2	1/1/2024	5/6/2024		
3	1/5/2024	5/10/2024		
4	2/17/2024	6/21/2024		
5	3/24/2024	7/26/2024		
6	4/1/2024	8/5/2024		
7	5/16/2024	9/19/2024		
8	6/1/2024	10/4/2024		
9	8/12/2024	12/16/2024		
10	10/15/2024	2/18/2025		
11	11/26/2024	4/1/2025		
12	12/1/2024	4/4/2025		
13				
14				
15				
16				

The calculated results in column B reflect the actual future date after exactly 90 workdays have passed, starting from the corresponding date in column A. Notice how the resulting dates differ substantially from the calendar day calculation in Example 1:

90 business days after 1/1/2024 is **5/6/2024**.

90 business days after 1/5/2024 is **5/10/2024**.

90 business days after 2/17/2024 is **6/21/2024**.

Troubleshooting: Addressing Numeric Output and Formatting

A frequent issue encountered when performing date arithmetic in Excel is the result displaying as a large number instead of a recognizable date format. This happens because, as previously discussed, all dates are stored internally as Serial Numbers. If the cell containing the formula (e.g., B2) was not previously formatted as a date, Excel defaults to displaying the raw numerical value of the result.

To resolve this, you must explicitly apply a date format to the result cells. Select the cells containing the numerical output. Navigate to the **Home** tab on the Excel ribbon. Within the **Number Format** dropdown menu (usually showing "General" or a number), click and select the **Short Date** or **Long Date** option. Choosing **Short Date** (e.g., 5/6/2024) is the quickest way to convert the underlying serial number into a user-friendly date format, ensuring your calculated deadlines are

instantly readable.

Advanced Considerations and Related Date Functions

While the simple addition method and the [WORKDAY function](#) cover the vast majority of 90-day calculations, [Excel](#) offers alternatives for more complex scheduling needs. For example, if you needed to calculate a date 90 months (or 3 months) into the future, the **EDATE** function would be the appropriate tool, as it preserves the day of the month while shifting the month count. Similarly, if your work week differs from the standard Monday-to-Friday structure, utilizing **WORKDAY.INTL** allows you to define custom weekend days.

For a deeper dive into the specific arguments, constraints, and advanced usage of the business day calculation tools, you can consult the complete official documentation for the [WORKDAY function](#) in Microsoft [Excel](#).

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