

# Sanitize Column Names

If needed, you can clean the names of the columns in your dataset. When column names are sanitized:

- alphanumeric characters and underscores ( `_` ) are permitted
- spacebars are converted to underscores
- all other characters are removed

Although Trifacta® supports a wider range of characters, you may wish to sanitize your column names to simplify publishing to and import into downstream systems.

**Tip:** Sanitized names matches the column names supported in Release 5.0 and earlier.

## Sanitize during Import

The above sanitization can be applied to your column names when the dataset is imported.

**Tip:** If you notice issues with references to your column names in your recipes, you may be able to fix them by re-importing the dataset and choosing to sanitize during import.

### Steps:

1. In the left nav bar, click the Datasets icon.
2. Click **Import Data**.
3. Select the file or table to import.
4. Click **Edit Settings**.
5. In the dialog, select **Remove special characters from column names**.
6. Complete the import of the dataset.

For more information, see *Import Data Page*.

## Sanitize via Transformation

Through the Transform Builder, you can add a step to sanitize column names in your recipe.

<b>Transformation Name</b>	Rename columns by removing special characters
<b>Parameter: Option</b>	Clean current column names

**Tip:** If you are sanitizing your column names for downstream systems, you should add this step at the end of your recipe.

You can perform more fine-grained column renaming operations. See *Rename Columns*.