Rename Columns

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You can rename individual columns through the column drop-down. Through transform steps, you can apply renaming to one or more columns.

> **NOTE:** An imported dataset requires about 15 rows to properly infer column data types and the row, if any, to use for column headers.

- Column names cannot contain escaped characters, such as `\n`.

> **NOTE:** Column names cannot contain spaces. Use dashes or underscores instead.

> **Tip:** To prevent potential issues with downstream systems, you should limit your column lengths to no more than 128 characters.

Rename Individual Columns

To rename a column, click the drop-down caret next to the column name. Click **Rename**.

Rename through Suggestions

Steps:

1. If your column already exists, click the name of the column.
2. Click the Rename suggestion card.
3. Click **Modify**.
4. Replace the `newColumnName` value with your preferred column name.

Rename for a New Column

Columns that are generated through transform steps are given a default name.

For the following types of transforms, however, you can specify the column name as part of the step:

- `derive`
- `extractkv`
- `merge`
- `nest`

- `udf` - See *User-Defined Functions*.

When a transform is added to the recipe, an `as:` clause is automatically added to the transform step. You can modify your transform to change the value of the `as:` column.

For example, the following transform generates a new column with the first word from the `Name` column. The `as:` value renames this generated column as `FirstName`:

```
derive type:single value:FIND(Name,`{start} `,false,0) as:'FirstName'
```

You can paste Wrangle steps into the *Transformer Page*.

Auto-Generated Column Names

When your transforms generate new columns, names are automatically assigned to these columns based on the following pattern.

1. If the transform includes a function reference, the function name is included in the new column.

Example Transform	Column Name
`derive type: single value:LEFT (city,3)`	`left_city`

2. If the above step is applied again, a duplicate column is generated with the following name:

Example Transform	Column Name
`derive type: single value:LEFT (city,3)`	`left_city1`

3. If the transform does not contain a function reference, the following convention is used:

Example Transform	Column Name
`derive type: single value:'4'`	`column1`
`derive type: single value:'5'`	`column2`

Rename Multiple Columns

Designer Cloud powered by Trifacta Enterprise Edition enables to rename multiple columns using a single transformation. You can perform this batch renaming using one of the methods described in this section.

> **Tip:** To prevent potential issues with downstream systems, you should limit your column lengths to no more than 128 characters.

Steps:

1. Open the Transform Builder to add a new step to your recipe.
2. From the drop-down in the first textbox, select `Rename columns`.

3. Select your method of renaming. See below.
4. Select the column or columns to which to apply the rename.
5. To add the step to your recipe, click **Add**.

Batch rename methods

The following methods can be applied to renaming multiple columns.

Manual rename

For each column that you select, you must add the new name just below the old one.

- To add additional columns to the mapping, click **Add**.
- To remove columns from the mapping, click **Remove**.

Add prefix

For the selected columns, you can apply a specific prefix value to the names. Example:

Old Column Name	Prefix	New Column Name
column1	pre_	pre_column1
column2	pre_	pre_column2
column3	pre_	pre_column3

Add suffix

For the selected columns, you can apply a specific suffix value to the names. Example:

Old Column Name	Suffix	New Column Name
column1	_new	column1_new
column2	_new	column2_new
column3	_new	column3_new

Find and replace

You can apply literals, Trifacta patterns, or regular expressions to match patterns of text in the source column names. These matching values can then be replaced by a fixed value. For more information on patterns, see *Text Matching*.

Use row as header

When this method is applied, all of the values in the specified row are used as the new names for each column.

> **NOTE:** This method applies to all columns in the dataset.

> **NOTE:** If source row number information is no longer available, this method cannot be used for column rename.

- Source row numbers apply. Current row numbers may not be the same. In the data grid, mouse over the leftmost column to see available row information.
- Each value in the row must be unique within the row.
- The row is removed from its original position.