

# POSTGRESQL ALTER TABLE COMMAND

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/postgresql/postgresql\\_alter\\_command.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/postgresql/postgresql_alter_command.htm)

Copyright © tutorialspoint.com

The PostgreSQL **ALTER TABLE** command is used to add, delete or modify columns in an existing table.

You would also use ALTER TABLE command to add and drop various constraints on an existing table.

## Syntax:

The basic syntax of **ALTER TABLE** to add a new column in an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name ADD column_name datatype;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP COLUMN** in an existing table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name DROP COLUMN column_name;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to change the **DATA TYPE** of a column in a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name MODIFY COLUMN column_name datatype;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to add a **NOT NULL** constraint to a column in a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name MODIFY column_name datatype NOT NULL;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD UNIQUE CONSTRAINT** to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint UNIQUE(column1, column2...);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD CHECK CONSTRAINT** to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint CHECK (CONDITION);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **ADD PRIMARY KEY** constraint to a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
ADD CONSTRAINT MyPrimaryKey PRIMARY KEY (column1, column2...);
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP CONSTRAINT** from a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP CONSTRAINT MyUniqueConstraint;
```

If you're using MySQL, the code is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP INDEX MyUniqueConstraint;
```

The basic syntax of ALTER TABLE to **DROP PRIMARY KEY** constraint from a table is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP CONSTRAINT MyPrimaryKey;
```

If you're using MySQL, the code is as follows:

```
ALTER TABLE table_name  
DROP PRIMARY KEY;
```

## Example:

Consider our [COMPANY](#) table has the following records:

id	name	age	address	salary
1	Paul	32	California	20000
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000
5	David	27	Texas	85000
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000
7	James	24	Houston	10000

Following is the example to ADD a new column in an existing table:

```
testdb=# ALTER TABLE COMPANY ADD GENDER char(1);
```

Now, COMPANY table is changed and following would be output from SELECT statement:

id	name	age	address	salary	gender
1	Paul	32	California	20000	
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000	
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000	
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000	
5	David	27	Texas	85000	
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000	
7	James	24	Houston	10000	

(7 rows)

Following is the example to DROP gender column from existing table:

```
testdb=# ALTER TABLE COMPANY DROP GENDER;
```

Now, COMPANY table is changed and following would be output from SELECT statement:

id	name	age	address	salary
1	Paul	32	California	20000
2	Allen	25	Texas	15000
3	Teddy	23	Norway	20000
4	Mark	25	Rich-Mond	65000
5	David	27	Texas	85000
6	Kim	22	South-Hall	45000
7	James	24	Houston	10000