

Chapter 12: Overflow

Overflow	Value	Details
visible		Shows all overflowing content outside the element
scroll		Hides the overflowing content and adds a scroll bar
hidden		Hides the overflowing content, both scroll bars disappear and the page becomes fixed
auto		Same as <code>scroll</code> if content overflows, but doesn't add scroll bar if content fits
inherit		Inherit's the parent element's value for this property

Section 12.1: overflow-wrap

`overflow-wrap` tells a browser that it can break a line of text inside a targeted element onto multiple lines in an otherwise unbreakable place. Helpful in preventing an long string of text causing layout problems due to overflowing it's container.

CSS

```
div {  
  width: 100px;  
  outline: 1px dashed #bbb;  
}  
  
#div1 {  
  overflow-wrap: normal;  
}  
  
#div2 {  
  overflow-wrap: break-word;  
}
```

HTML

```
<div id="div1">  
  <strong>#div1</strong>: Small words are displayed normally, but a long word like <span  
style="red;">supercalifragilisticexpialidocious</span> is too long so it will overflow past the edge of the  
line-break  
</div>  
  
<div id="div2">  
  <strong>#div2</strong>: Small words are displayed normally, but a long word like <span  
style="red;">supercalifragilisticexpialidocious</span> will be split at the line break and continue on the  
next line.  
</div>
```

#div1: Small words are displayed normally, but a long word like **supercalifragilisticexpialidoc** is too long so it will overflow past the edge of the line-break

#div2: Small words are displayed normally, but a long word like **supercalifragilisticexpialidoci**ous will be split at the line break and continue on the next line.

overflow-wrap – Value

normal

Lets a word overflow if it is longer than the line

break-word

Will split a word into multiple lines, if necessary

inherit

Inherits the parent element's value for this property

Details

Section 12.2: overflow-x and overflow-y

These two properties work in a similar fashion as the `overflow` property and accept the same values. The `overflow-x` parameter works only on the x or left-to-right axis. The `overflow-y` works on the y or top-to-bottom axis.

HTML

```
<div id="div-x">
```

If this div is too small to display its contents, the content to the left and right will be clipped.

```
</div>
```

```
<div id="div-y">
```

If this div is too small to display its contents, the content to the top and bottom will be clipped.

```
</div>
```

CSS

```
div {  
  width: 200px;  
  height: 200px;  
}  
  
#div-x {  
  overflow-x: hidden;  
}
```

```
#div-y {  
  overflow-y: hidden;  
}
```

Section 12.3: overflow: scroll

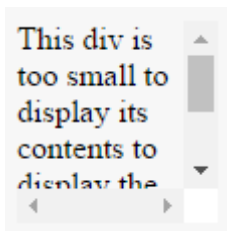
HTML

```
<div>  
  This div is too small to display its contents to display the effects of the overflow property.  
</div>
```

CSS

```
div {  
  width: 100px;  
  height: 100px;  
  overflow: scroll;  
}
```

Result



The content above is clipped in a 100px by 100px box, with scrolling available to view overflowing content.

Most desktop browsers will display both horizontal and vertical scrollbars, whether or not any content is clipped. This can avoid problems with scrollbars appearing and disappearing in a dynamic environment. Printers may print overflowing content.

Section 12.4: overflow: visible

HTML

```
<div>  
  Even if this div is too small to display its contents, the content is not clipped.  
</div>
```

CSS

```
div {  
  width: 50px;  
  height: 50px;  
  overflow: visible;  
}
```

Result



Content is not clipped and will be rendered outside the content box if it exceeds its container size.

Section 12.5: Block Formatting Context Created with Overflow

Using the `overflow` property with a value different to `visible` will create a new **block formatting context**. This is useful for aligning a block element next to a floated element.

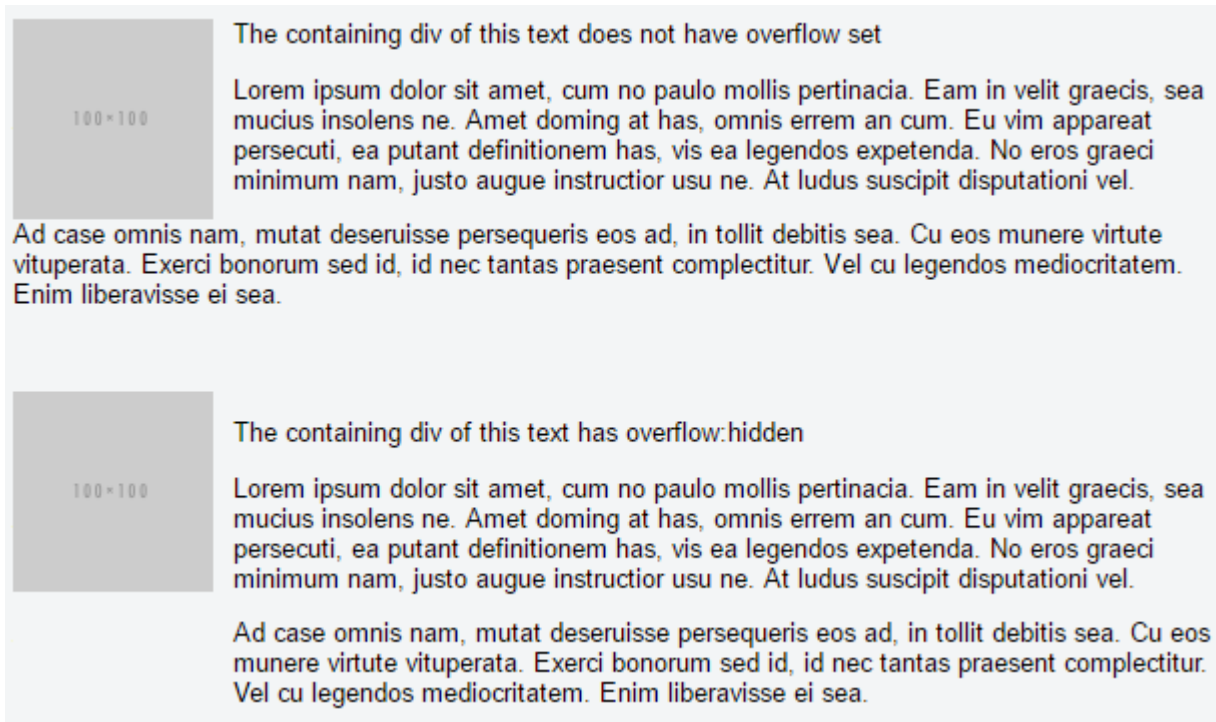
CSS

```
img {  
  float:left;  
  margin-right: 10px;  
}  
div {  
  overflow:hidden; /* creates block formatting context */  
}
```

HTML

```
  
<div>  
  <p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cum no paulo mollis pertinacia.</p>  
  <p>Ad case omnis nam, mutat deseruisse persequeris eos ad, in tollit debitis sea.</p>  
</div>
```

Result



This example shows how paragraphs within a div with the `overflow` property set will interact with a floated image.