

# DreamPunk 3.4.2.0 - Frequently Asked Questions

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## General Questions

### What is DreamPunk?

DreamPunk is a graphics overhaul for Cyberpunk 2077 that overhauls path tracing, refines weathers based on real-life photography, and replaces the game's LUT with a custom color-accurate system. It includes HDR weathers, dynamic clouds, RT cloud shadows, refined color grading, and custom ReShade shaders.

### What game version is required?

DreamPunk 3.4.2.0 requires **Cyberpunk 2077 version 2.31**.

### Should I use the installer or manual installation?

The **DreamPunk installer** is recommended for most users. It provides:

- Automatic game detection (Steam, GOG, Epic Games)
- Automatic version checking with warnings for incompatible versions
- Guided preset and graphics configuration selection
- Optional crash fix for corrupt user settings
- Detection and warnings for conflicting mods
- Selective uninstallation options

**Manual installation** is recommended only for mod organizer users or advanced users who want full control.

### Which preset should I use?

- **SDR Ultimate:** Photorealistic experience for standard monitors (used in all videos)
  - Includes saturation options: Vibrant, Neutral (default), or Desaturated
- **SDR Bodycam:** Bodycam-style visuals for SDR displays
- **HDR Ultimate:** For HDR monitors (requires HDR10 PQ enabled in Windows and in-game)

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## Installation Issues

### Using the Installer

The DreamPunk installer automates the installation process:

- 1 **Automatic Game Detection:** Finds your Cyberpunk 2077 installation (Steam, GOG, Epic)
- 2 **Version Verification:** Warns if your game version doesn't match the required 2.31
- 3 **Choose Install or Uninstall:** Select your desired operation
- 4 **Graphics Configuration:** Choose between NVIDIA or AMD, Standard or Ultra
  - 5 **NVIDIA Standard:** Default photorealistic experience
  - 6 **NVIDIA Ultra:** Higher quality, less ghosting, dynamic shaders (10% performance cost)
  - 7 **AMD Standard:** Default photorealistic experience
  - 8 **AMD Ultra:** Enhanced with dynamic shaders (10% performance cost)
- 9 **Preset Selection:** Choose SDR Ultimate, SDR Bodycam, or HDR Ultimate
- 10 **Saturation Options** (SDR Ultimate only): Select Vibrant, Neutral, or Desaturated
- 11 **Optional Crash Fix:** Reset corrupt user settings if experiencing startup crashes
- 12 **Automatic Installation:** All files installed to correct locations

⚠ **GOG Users:** The installer will warn you to disable GOG Galaxy Overlay to prevent crashes.  
⚠ **Other Mods Detected:** The installer will warn if it detects other mods that may cause conflicts.

### Manual Installation (Advanced Users)

If installing manually or using a mod organizer, ensure all three components are installed:

1. Main mod files (DreamPunk\_3.4.X\_Main\_Files.zip)
2. Shader files (DreamPunk\_3.4.X\_Shaders.zip) - **MUST be installed manually**, not through mod organizers
3. Preset files (DreamPunk\_3.4.X\_SDR/HDR/Bodycam\_Preset.zip)

### Wrong game version detected

The installer automatically checks your game version. If you see a warning about version mismatch:

- **Required version:** 2.31
- **What happens if you continue:** Game will crash on startup with incompatible versions
- **Solution:** Update Cyberpunk 2077 to version 2.31 before installing DreamPunk

### The game looks wrong or shaders aren't loading

This usually means one of the three installation components failed. Reinstall all three components and ensure you're extracting to the correct Cyberpunk 2077 root folder.

### ReShade preset not loading

If the preset doesn't load on first try, repeat the preset installation step. ReShade has a cache problem that can store old presets in a stuck state.

### DOF (Depth of Field) isn't working

In the ReShade overlay (press Home), go to the Add-ons tab and change "Aspect ratio heuristic" to "Multiples of resolution..." then press Reload. This is common with lower DLSS settings like Performance or Ultra Performance.

### Screen is constantly blurry

Same solution as DOF issue - change the Aspect ratio heuristic setting in the ReShade Add-ons tab.

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## Crash Troubleshooting

**Quick Fix:** Use the Installer's Crash Fix Option

If you're experiencing startup crashes, try running the installer again and selecting "Yes" for the optional crash fix when prompted. This will reset corrupt user settings automatically.

## Manual Crash Fix: Game crashes on startup - Step-by-step:

- 1 **Backup and reinstall:** Move your Cyberpunk 2077 folder as backup, reinstall fresh through your client (Steam/GOG/Epic), and run CP\_2077CrashFix.bat from Optional\_Addons.zip
- 2 **Test clean install:** Start the game to confirm it doesn't crash. If it does, the issue is between your system and Cyberpunk 2077 (not mod-related)
  - 3 Check antivirus (Avast is known to cause crashes - consider disabling)
  - 4 Microsoft Defender works fine
- 5 **Test ReShade compatibility:** Install ReShade 6.5.1 with add-on support from reshade.me, select DX10/11/12. Start game to confirm no crash
  - 6 If crash occurs: you have an overlay problem
  - 7 **Disable GOG Galaxy Overlay** (most common cause)
  - 8 Disable ASUS, MSI, or any other overlays
  - 9 Steam and NVIDIA overlays are confirmed compatible
- 10 **Backup settings:** Go to `Cyberpunk 2077\r6\config\settings\platform\pc` and copy options.json somewhere safe
- 11 **Install main files:** Extract only DreamPunk\_3.x.x.x\_Main\_Files.zip, start game to confirm it works
  - 12 If crash: you're using wrong game version (needs 2.31)
  - 13 To use older version: restore backed-up options.json
- 14 **Install remaining files:** Extract Shaders.zip and your chosen Preset.zip
  - 15 If crash: Remove NGD\_ModMenu.addon from `Cyberpunk 2077\bin\x64`
  - 16 Still crashing: Remove entire NGD\_Bridge folder from `Cyberpunk 2077\red4ext\plugins`

## Common startup crash causes:

- Mod leftovers from older game versions
- Antivirus conflicts (especially Avast)
- Wrong game version (DreamPunk requires 2.31)
- GOG Galaxy Overlay or incompatible overlays
- Corrupted UserConfig.json (delete from `C:\Users\[your_name]\AppData\Local\CD Projekt Red\Cyberpunk 2077` )
- Try disabling G-Sync or setting FPS cap in NVIDIA Control Panel

## Game crashes during gameplay:

- **Frame Generation conflict:** Disable Frame Generation OR disable Depth Buffer integration in ReShade Add-ons tab
- **Script-heavy mods:** Traffic/pedestrian mods can create feedback loops in game's spawning system

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## Graphics Settings

What graphics configuration should I choose in the installer?

### NVIDIA Users

- **NVIDIA Standard:** Default photorealistic DreamPunk experience for NVIDIA GPUs
- **NVIDIA Ultra:** Higher quality with 10% performance cost, less ghosting, cleaner image, dynamic shader transitions, and higher quality Dynamic Contrast functionality

### AMD Users

- **AMD Standard:** Default photorealistic DreamPunk experience for AMD GPUs
- **AMD Ultra:** Same graphics as AMD Standard but with dynamic shader transitions and higher quality Dynamic Contrast shader (10% performance cost)

The installer automatically installs the correct shader configuration based on your selection.

What settings should I use?

- **Everything on MAX:** DreamPunk requires highest graphics settings
- **Path Tracing:** Required for photorealistic look (standard ray tracing works but isn't photorealistic)
- **DLSS Sharpening:** 0.25-0.5 for 4K (experiment with lower resolutions, never exceed 0.75)
- **FOV:** 120 for photorealistic width, 50-70 for closeup shots with DOF, 90-100 as general sweetspot
- **Basic options:** Turn OFF Film Grain, Chromatic Aberration, etc. Keep Motion Blur ON (Low or High) to mask path tracing noise
- **Ray Reconstruction:** Can be turned off to improve NPC appearance in some lighting (increases noise in some scenes)

HDR Settings (HDR Ultimate preset only):

1. Enable HDR10 PQ in video settings
2. Set Maximum Brightness to your monitor's max nits (adjust down if too bright, don't exceed max nits)
3. Set Tone-Mapping Midpoint to 1.5 (adjust for contrast preference)
4. Set Paper White to 400-500 (adjust until UI looks proper)
5. HDR10 PQ Saturation: Leave at 0 (feel free to experiment)

**NVIDIA Full Dynamic Range:** Strongly recommended to display DreamPunk's full natural color range. Search for guides on setting NVIDIA RGB Full Dynamic Range.

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## Known Issues

### HDR flickering in dark environments:

Press Home, uncheck "NGD Static Scanner" (top of shader list) and "NGD Static Bypass" (bottom). This disables auto-menu detection but fixes flickering and provides slight performance boost.

### Weather looks strange or stuck:

Cyberpunk 2077 has a vanilla bug that can cause weathers to get stuck when installing weather mods. Use the NGD Mod Menu (press End) to manually set weather.

### Unnatural fog in interiors:

Some weathers with heavy volumetric fog introduce fog indoors. Use weathers like Sunny or Cloudy to avoid this.

### Cloud seaming issues:

Some weathers still have visible cloud seams (inherited vanilla problem, being worked on).

**GOG Installation Warning:** GOG Galaxy Overlay MUST be disabled or the game will crash.

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## Mod Menu Features

### How do I access Mod Menu?

Press **End** on keyboard to toggle NGD Mod Menu

Press **Home** to access ReShade overlay

### What do the features do?

**Depth of Field (DOF):** Blurs background/foreground around automated focus point

- Close Blur: Controls weapon and steering wheel blur
- Focus Range Mode: Adjusts minimum distance for DOF activation

**Camera Shake:** Simulates handheld camera movement

- Dynamic Camera Shake: Movement-dependent shake for more realistic effect
- Car Cinematic Mode: Drone footage simulation with forced black bars

**Black Bars (Letterbox):** Creates cinematic black bars

**Unlock Exposure:** Allows auto-exposure to adapt to darker environments (very helpful in dark areas)

## What are Ultra Shaders?

Optional high-quality shaders (in Optional\_Addons.zip) that are 10% heavier but provide:

- Gradual shader transitions instead of instant on/off
  - Dynamic Contrast with 4 zones instead of 2 for more accurate enhancement
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## Compatibility

### What mods are incompatible?

- Any weather modification mods (except Weathermancer)
- LUT modification mods (Nova LUT, GITS, etc.)
- Graphics configuration mods

### What mods are recommended?

- **Visuals Nulled Night City** (improves stability)
- **Visuals Nulled Dogtown** (improves stability)
- Check main Patreon post for full mod recommendations

### Can I use with mod organizers?

Main files can be installed with mod organizers, but shader files (DreamPunk\_3.4.X\_Shaders.zip) **MUST** be installed manually to maintain ReShade-RED4ext communication.

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## Uninstallation

### Using the Installer (Recommended)

Run the DreamPunk installer and select **Uninstall**. You can selectively remove components:

- **DreamPunk Core** (mandatory - always removed)
- **ReShade**: All shaders, textures, and config files
- **Red4ext**: Entire red4ext folder including all plugins
- **Codeware**: Only the Codeware plugin from red4ext folder

This allows you to keep dependencies like Red4ext or Codeware if other mods need them.

## Manual Uninstallation

If you prefer to uninstall manually:

1. Remove `DreamPunk_XX.archive` from `Cyberpunk 2077\archive\pc\mod`
  2. Remove `DreamPunk[GRAPHICS].ini` from `Cyberpunk 2077\engine\config\platform\pc`
  3. Remove `NGD_ModMenu.addon` from `Cyberpunk 2077\bin\x64`
  4. Remove `NGD_Bridge` folder from `Cyberpunk 2077\red4ext\plugins`
  5. Run ReShade setup, select Cyberpunk 2077, DX12, and choose uninstall
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## Performance

### Performance presets coming?

Performance presets are in development. Current presets are high quality and may struggle on some systems.

### Custom DLSS settings (RTX 5000 series):

Use NVIDIA app to set custom input resolution of 0.75-0.90 instead of regular Quality preset (0.67).

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## Support

### Where can I get help?

Report crashes or issues directly via Patreon messages for full troubleshooting support. Include detailed problem description and system information.