

# Chaos Scatter

This page contains information about the Chaos Scatter geometry and the Chaos Scatter Surface Color texture and their integration in V-Ray.

The Chaos Scatter geometry and the Chaos Scatter Surface Color texture are not available in versions earlier than V-Ray 6.

For more information on working with Chaos Scatter, please visit the following Chaos Corona pages:

[Getting Started with Scatter for 3ds Max](#)

[Scatter FAQ](#)

[Scatter for 3ds Max - Advanced Features](#)

[Performance and Troubleshooting](#)

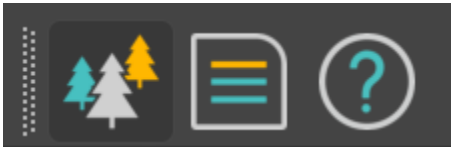
## Scatter Geometry Overview

---

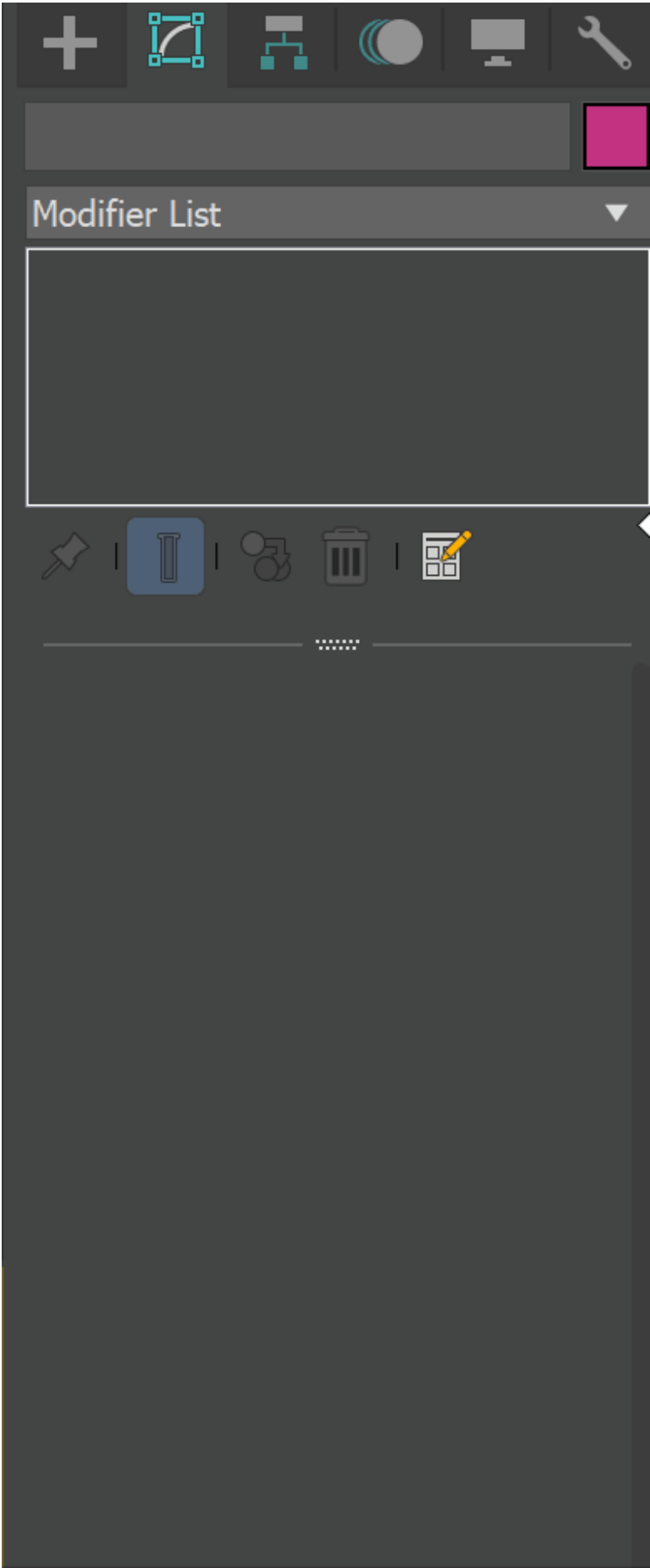
Chaos Scatter is a powerful instancing and distribution tool that allows you to easily populate scenes with selected objects. This is especially useful for outdoor scenes that need to be filled with greenery, rocks, grass etc.

Chaos Scatter is also available with the Corona renderer. *For more information, please visit the [Chaos Scatter page for Corona](#).*

UI Path: ||Scatter Toolbar|| > Chaos Scatter...  
||Scatter Toolbar|| > **Chaos Scatter** button



||Command panel|| > **Create** tab > **Geometry** > **Chaos** > **ChaosScatter** button



## Workflow

This video tutorial for the Corona renderer showcases common uses for Chaos Scatter's options, such as **Normal vs. Z**, **Slope Limitation**, **Spline includes** and **excludes**, **Camera Clipping** and more. Please also see the end of the video for a workflow using **Chaos Scatter Surface Color** texture.

## Loading Chaos Scatter files from arbitrary location

To load Chaos Scatter files from a non-default location, follow the steps below:

1. Install V-Ray for the respective 3ds Max version you use.
2. Copy the "C:\Program Files\Chaos Group\Scatter" folder to the file server, e.g. **\\fileserver\Scatter**.
3. Copy "C:\Program Files\Autodesk\3ds Max 20NN\Plugins\ChaosScatterMax20NN.dlt" to the file server, e.g. **\\fileserver\ScatterPlugin\ChaosScatterMax2023.dlt**. Replace the 20NN with your 3ds Max version.
4. Then, uninstall V-Ray.
5. Set the following environment variable (you can use .bat file or system/user environment variables). Pay attention to the version of 3ds Max in both environment variable name and value - they should be the same:  
  
`"CHAOSSCATTER_3DSMAX_20NN_LOAD_PATH=\\fileserver\Scatter\3ds Max 20NN"`  
You can download an example .bat file set for 3ds Max 2023 [here](#). It sets an environment variable for 3ds Max 2023 and then, opens 3dsmax.exe.
6. Launch 3ds Max and from the **Customize** menu select **Configure User** and **System Paths**.
7. From **3rd Party Plug-Ins** click **Add** and browse the path where **ChaosScatterMax20NN.dlt** file is copied, e.g. **\\fileserver\ScatterPlugin\ChaosScatterMax2023.dlt**.
8. Close 3ds Max and reopen it, Chaos Scatter plugin should be loaded and ready for usage.

Replace the 20NN with your 3ds Max version in all of the shown paths. The examples given are for 3ds Max 2023.

## Parameters

Each Chaos Scatter rollout has its own dedicated page listed below:

Objects
Camera Clipping
Scattering
Spline Scattering
Surface Scattering
Bounding Box Scattering
Transformations

**Areas**

**Display&Limits**

**Info**

**Color Textures**