

File path (Unix)

Absolute or relative Unix-style file path.

```
^(?:\\|\/|\.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+$
```

Token-by-token breakdown

Token	Meaning
^	start of string (or line in multiline mode)
(?:	start of a non-capturing group
\\	literal “\”
	OR — try the alternative
\\. {1,2}	between 1 and 2 times: literal “.”
\\	literal “\”
)?	end of group, optional (zero or one)
(?:	start of a non-capturing group
[\\w.-]+	one or more: any of: word chars (A–Z, a–z, 0–9, _), “.”, “-”
\\	literal “\”
)*	end of group, zero or more
[\\w.-]+	one or more: any of: word chars (A–Z, a–z, 0–9, _), “.”, “-”
\$	end of string (or line in multiline mode)

Quick usage in 7 languages

JavaScript	<pre>const re = /^(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$/; re.test(value);</pre>
Python	<pre>import re re.match(r"^(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$", value)</pre>
Java	<pre>Pattern.compile("(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$").matcher(value).match() s();</pre>
C# / .NET	<pre>Regex.IsMatch(value, @"(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$");</pre>
Go	<pre>regexp.MustCompile(`^(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$`).MatchString(value)</pre>
Ruby	<pre>/^(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$/ .match?(value)</pre>
PHP	<pre>preg_match('~^(?:\\ \/ \.{1,2}\/)?(?:[\\w.-]+\\/)*[\\w.-]+\$~', \$value);</pre>

Common pitfalls

- **Anchored to the whole string.** This pattern uses ^ and \$, so it requires the entire input to match. To find it inside a longer text, drop the anchors and use the global (g) flag.
- **Watch for backtracking.** This pattern nests quantifiers; on adversarial input that can cause exponential backtracking (ReDoS). Test with long non-matching strings, or use an RE2-based engine.

- **Escape it correctly per language.** In Java and JavaScript strings each backslash must be doubled (`\\d`); in Python, Go, and C# use raw/verbatim strings so the backslashes survive.
- **Validate beyond format.** Matching the format doesn't guarantee the value is real. Confirm the file path (unix) against a source of truth (database, API, or checksum) where it matters.