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# Genetic Engineering

National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI)

## Source

*National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI). [Genetic Engineering](#).*

Genetic engineering is the process of using recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology to alter the genetic makeup of an organism. Traditionally, humans have manipulated genomes indirectly by controlling breeding and selecting offspring with desired traits. Genetic engineering involves the direct manipulation of one or more genes. Most often, a gene from another species is added to an organism's genome to give it a desired phenotype.