**DATEDIF(start\_date,end\_date,unit)**

**Start\_date:** A date that represents the first, or starting, date of the period.

Dates may be entered as text strings within quotation marks (for example, "2001/1/30"), as serial numbers (for example, 36921, which represents January 30, 2001, if you're using the 1900 date system), or as the results of other formulas or functions (for example, DATEVALUE("2001/1/30")).

**End\_date**: A date that represents the last, or ending, date of the period.

Note: I﻿f the Start\_date is greater than the End\_date, the result will be #NUM!.

**Unit:** The type of information that you want returned:

| **Unit** | **Returns** |
| --- | --- |
| "Y" | The number of complete years in the period. |
| "M" | The number of complete months in the period. |
| "D" | The number of days in the period. |
| "MD" | The difference between the days in start\_date and end\_date. The months and years of the dates are ignored.  **Important:** We don't recommend using the "MD" argument, as there are known limitations with it. See the known issues section below. |
| "YM" | The difference between the months in start\_date and end\_date. The days and years of the dates are ignored |
| "YD" | The difference between the days of start\_date and end\_date. The years of the dates are ignored. |