

---

Subject: Re: SQL : how to prevent duplicates ?  
Posted by [dolik.rce](#) on Mon, 10 Mar 2014 20:43:58 GMT  
[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Hi jibe,

Unique index can be made simply with UNIQUE:

```
TABLE_(CUSTOMERS)
  INT_ (CODE) PRIMARY_KEY
  STRING_ (LASTNAME, 40) UNIQUE
  STRING_ (FIRSTNAME, 40)
END_TABLE
```

It should work for most of the supported engines, including sqlite, I believe.

For two unique columns, there is DUAL\_UNIQUE:

```
TABLE_(CUSTOMERS)
  INT_ (CODE) PRIMARY_KEY
  STRING_ (LASTNAME, 40)
  STRING_ (FIRSTNAME, 40) DUAL_UNIQUE(FIRSTNAME, LASTNAME)
END_TABLE
```

If you need even more columns to be unique, there is UNIQUE\_LIST(u, l), where u stands for identifier and l is list of columns. I never used it but I think it should work like this:

```
TABLE_(CUSTOMERS)
  INT_ (CODE) PRIMARY_KEY
  STRING_ (LASTNAME, 40)
  STRING_ (FIRSTNAME, 40)
  STRING_ (CITY, 40) UNIQUE_LIST(address_key, FIRSTNAME, LASTNAME, CITY)
END_TABLE
```

If you have some troubles, it might be a good idea to check the schema of the created table, from command line (or other) client. Sometimes there are subtle bugs that prevent some parts of the schema to be created properly, and they're simply missing. Also any error messages and or logs might tell you if there is any hidden problem. Hope that helps

Best regards,  
Honza

---