

# Clean command in Windows

The clean command deletes all partitions or formats the volume from the current drive. The command applies to Windows Server (Semi-Annual Channel), Windows Server 2019, Windows Server 2016, Windows Server 2012 R2, Windows Server 2012.

## Clean command syntax

```
clean [all]
```

## command parameter clean

**Parameter** **Description** **all** Specifies that each and every sector on the drive is set to 0, this will completely erase all data present on the drive.

### Note:

1. On MBR (Master Boot Record) drives, only the MBR partition information and hidden sector information are overwritten.
2. On a GPT (GUID Partition Table) volume, the gpt partition information, including the Protective MBR, is overwritten. No hidden sector information.
3. A drive must be selected for this to be successful. Use the **select disk** command to select a drive and switch to it.


## Example of how to erase the drive with the clean command via Command Prompt

1. To determine the drive number assigned to a 3TB+ MBR partitioned volume, follow the steps below.
  1. From the **Start** menu , right-clicking on **Computer** will provide a drop-down menu. (If you are using Windows 8 or 8.1, move your mouse to the bottom left corner of the desktop and right-click. Then select **Disk Management** ).
  2. Select **Manage**.
  3. Select **Disk Management** (listed under **Storage** ).
  4. Find the drive identified as a 3TB (2794GB) drive. The properties window shows that the partition table on the drive is MBR.

**Important** : Note the drive number (such as **Disk 1** ).

2. Open a Command Prompt window with admin rights.

3. From Command Prompt, type **diskpart** and press **Enter**. The diskpart command prompt will open.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.2.9200]
(c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>diskpart_
```

4. From the diskpart command prompt, type **list disk** and press **Enter**.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - diskpart
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.2.9200]
(c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>diskpart
Microsoft DiskPart version 6.2.9200
Copyright (C) 1999-2012 Microsoft Corporation.

DISKPART> list disk
```

5. From the diskpart command prompt, you'll need to select the drive number (for example, if the 3TB+ drive is **Disk 1** , you'd type **select disk 1** ) and press **Enter**. A message appears indicating that the drive has been selected. You'll be back at the diskpart command prompt.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - diskpart
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.2.9200]
(c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>diskpart
Microsoft DiskPart version 6.2.9200
Copyright (C) 1999-2012 Microsoft Corporation.

DISKPART> list disk

   Disk ###    Status         Size             Free              Dyn  Gpt
   -----    -
   Disk 0      Online         931 GB            0 B
   Disk 1      Online        2794 GB          1024 KB

DISKPART> select disk 1_
```

6. From the diskpart command prompt, type **clean** and press **Enter**. The drive's partition, data, and signature are now deleted. You'll be back at the diskpart command prompt.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - diskpart
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.2.9200]
(c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>diskpart
Microsoft DiskPart version 6.2.9200
Copyright (C) 1999-2012 Microsoft Corporation.

DISKPART> list disk

Disk ###  Status         Size      Free      Dyn  Gpt
-----  -
Disk 0    Online         931 GB    0 B
Disk 1    Online        2794 GB   1024 KB

DISKPART> select disk 1
Disk 1 is now the selected disk.
DISKPART> clean
```

**Warning** : After you type **clean** and press **Enter** , the drive will be erased, no warning is provided so be careful to select the correct drive you want to erase.

7. The Command Prompt window will display the message "**DiskPart succeeded in cleaning the disk**" . Close the Command Prompt window by clicking the red **X** in the upper right corner.



```
Administrator: Command Prompt - diskpart
(c) 2012 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>diskpart
Microsoft DiskPart version 6.2.9200
Copyright (C) 1999-2012 Microsoft Corporation.
On computer: SEAGATE2012

DISKPART> list disk

Disk ###  Status         Size      Free      Dyn  Gpt
-----  -
Disk 0    Online         931 GB    0 B
Disk 1    Online        2794 GB   1024 KB

DISKPART> select disk 1
Disk 1 is now the selected disk.
DISKPART> clean
DiskPart succeeded in cleaning the disk.
DISKPART> _
```

8. 3TB+ drives can now be re-initialized, partitioned and formatted.

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