

# Fix 'Could Not Find This Item...' error in Windows 10

Do you get the 'Could Not Find This Item' error when deleting files, folders, or icons in Windows 10? Follow this simple guide to easily delete files that cannot be deleted when you encounter this error.

Do you get the '*Could Not Find This Item*' error when deleting files, folders, or icons in Windows 10? The full notice reads:

Could not find this item: This /\*file\*/ is no longer located in /\*Directory name

Provisional translation:

*This item could not be found: / \* This filename \* / is no longer in / \* Directory name \* /. Please verify the location of the item and try again.*

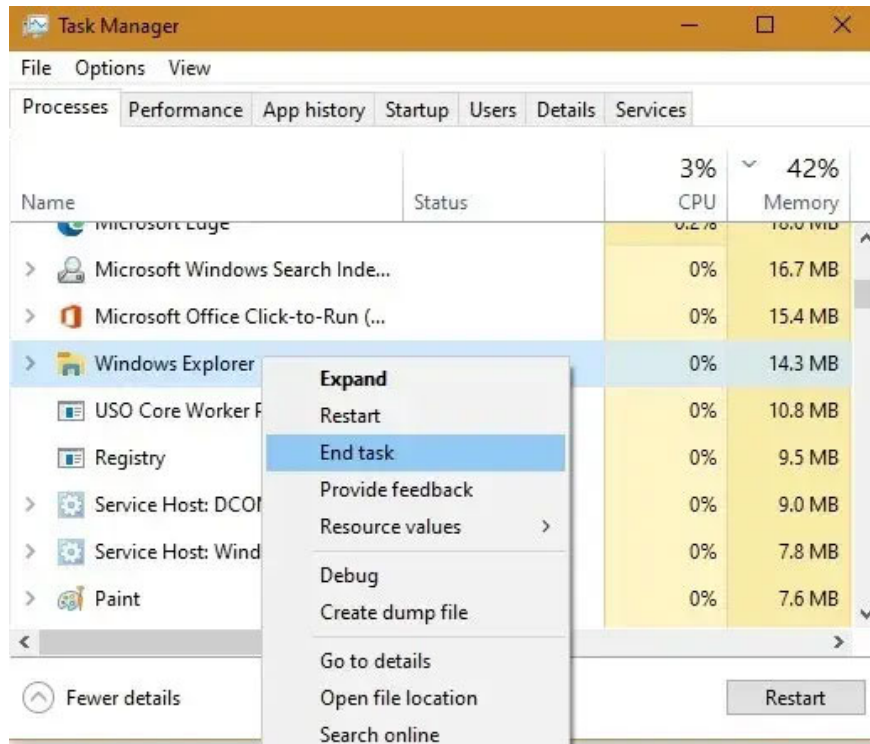
This is really annoying because you know for sure that this file is not being used by another program. The problematic object will not be moved to the **Recycle Bin**, no matter Delete how many times you press the key. The most common reasons for this error are corrupted files, using invalid names or unable to open successfully after closing.

Follow this simple guide to easily delete files that cannot be deleted when you encounter this error.

## First thing to do

Before moving to the actual solution in this tutorial, you should try some simple workarounds. Usually, indelible file problems can be fixed on the next reboot or update. Access to **Check for updates** in system settings and rebooting will fix any outstanding issues.

Sometimes the problem is caused by Windows Explorer - the main application accessing all file systems. Press **Ctrl+ Alt+ Del** to navigate to Windows Explorer and the process ends task. Restart again to see if the problem continues to occur.

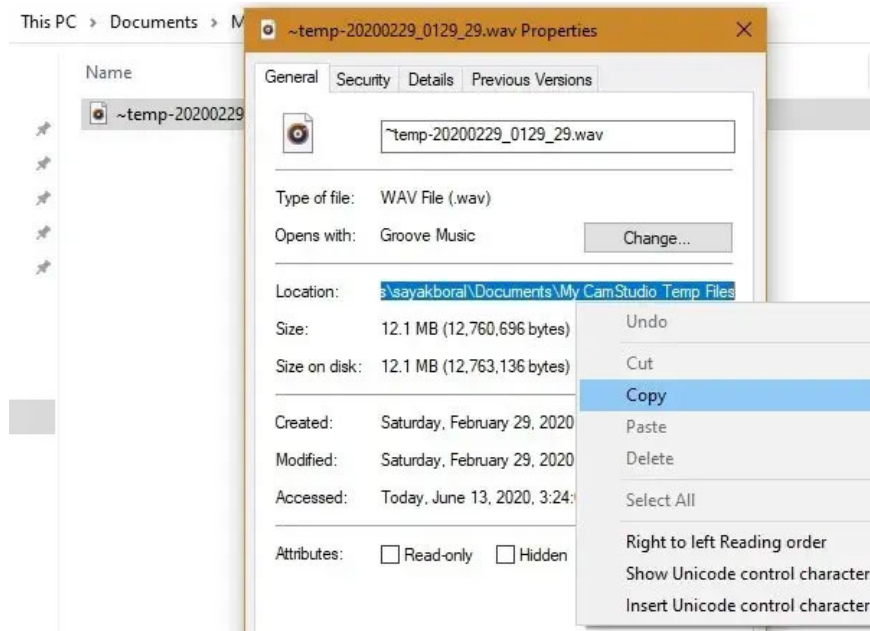


Navigate to the Windows Explorer process and end the task

## Resolve the 'Could Not Find this Item' error using the Command Prompt

Using the Windows Command Prompt to remove errors is the simplest solution. Make sure your Windows 10 system is up to date to avoid any errors that occur with the Command Prompt. You can easily open the Command Prompt with admin rights.

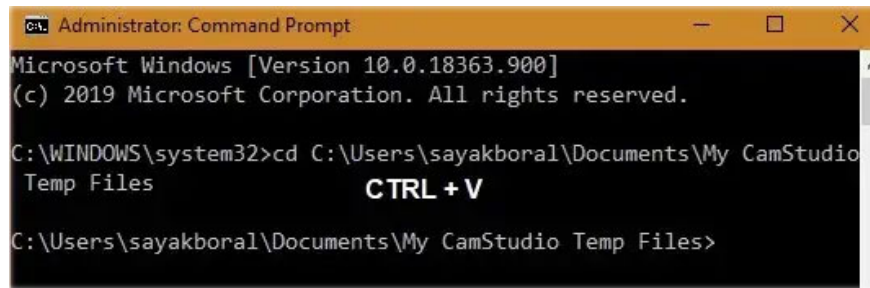
Go to the problematic file / folder / icon and copy its path. You will need to use this path in the Windows Command Prompt. Make sure you have enabled the copy-paste feature in the CMD app, otherwise you will have to enter the entire path.



Copy the file path

Enter the following text in the CMD window and press Enter:

```
cd link-file-error
```



Enter the command in the CMD window

Next, enter the following lines and press Enter. This will give you all the remaining file details.

```
dir/A/X/P
```

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.900]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>dir/A/X/P
Volume in drive C is Acer
Volume Serial Number is FE0B-2A6B

Directory of C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          .
02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          ..
02/29/2020  01:30 AM             12,760,696 ~TEMP-~1.WAV ~temp-20200229_0129_29.wav
                1 File(s)      12,760,696 bytes
                2 Dir(s)    186,033,090,560 bytes free

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>
```

### All other file details

Check the file path and you can see the prefix is ??displayed prominently before the file / directory name. Copy the selected part. (To do this, use **Ctrl+A** on the whole window and simply release the mouse button, then click to select the desired part.) You can also type if you want.

```
Select Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.900]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>dir/A/X/P
Volume in drive C is Acer
Volume Serial Number is FE0B-2A6B

Directory of C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          .
02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          ..
02/29/2020  01:30 AM             12,760,696 ~TEMP-~1.WAV ~temp-20200229_0129_29.wav
                1 File(s)      12,760,696 bytes
                2 Dir(s)    186,033,090,560 bytes free

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>
```

**CTRL + C**

### Check the file path again

In the next line, paste the path copied after the text indicating that the file / directory must be renamed. Name the file or directory. Do not leave the new name field blank, otherwise a syntax error will occur.

```
ren name-old-file name-new-file
```

```
CA: Select Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.18363.900]
(c) 2019 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>dir/A/X/P
Volume in drive C is Acer
Volume Serial Number is FE0B-2A6B

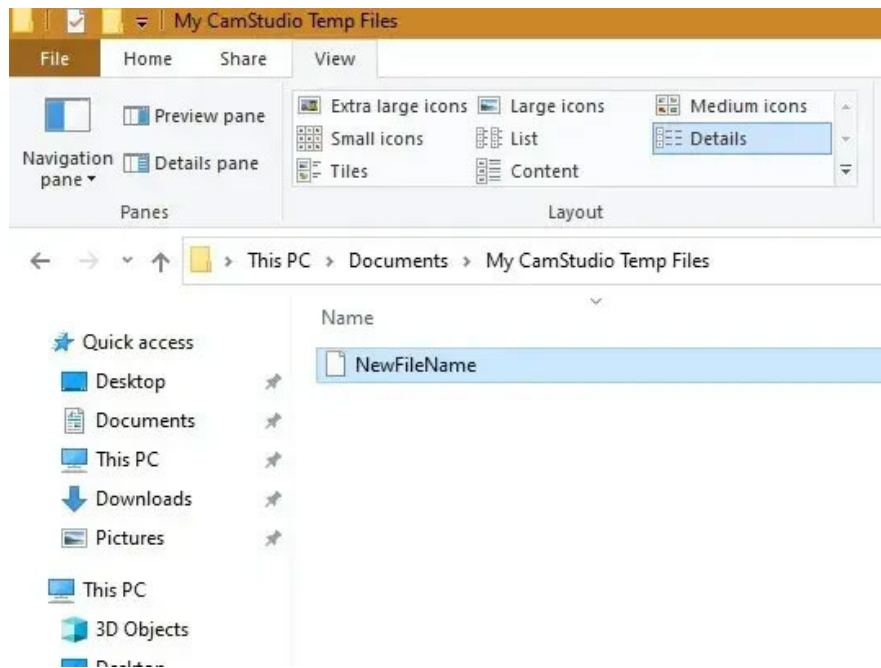
Directory of C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files

02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          .
02/29/2020  01:31 AM    <DIR>          ..
02/29/2020  01:30 AM             12,760,696 ~TEMP~1.WAV  ~temp-20200229_0129_29.wav
               1 File(s)      12,760,696 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  186,033,090,560 bytes free

C:\Users\sayakboral\Documents\My CamStudio Temp Files>ren~TEMP~1.WAV NewFileNa
```

### Rename problem file

The problem file or folder has been successfully renamed from the Command Prompt, as shown here. You can easily modify its properties later and even delete it permanently.



You can easily modify attributes or delete files

## Delete the file in Safe Mode

In the worst case scenario, if files or folders cannot be deleted even by using the Command Prompt method, you can always delete it in Safe Mode of Windows 10. Refer to article: [How to enter Safe Mode Windows 10 on startup](#) for details on how to do it.

You finished reading the article "[Fix 'Could Not Find This Item...' error in Windows 10](#)" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.