

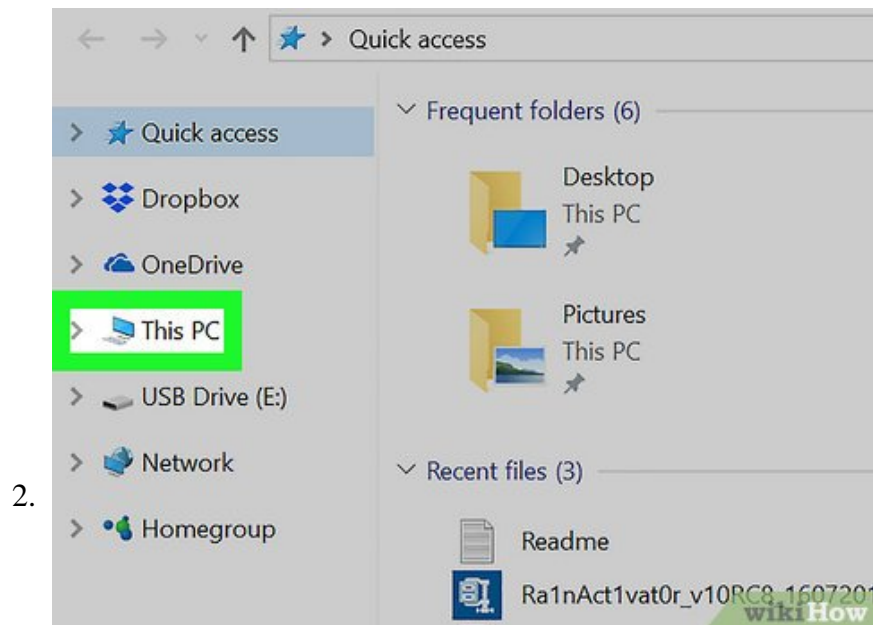
How to Clear a Flash Drive on PC or Mac

This wikiHow teaches you how to remove all of the files from a flash drive in Windows and macOS. Plug the flash drive into your PC. You can connect your flash drive to any working USB port on your computer.

Method 1 of 2:

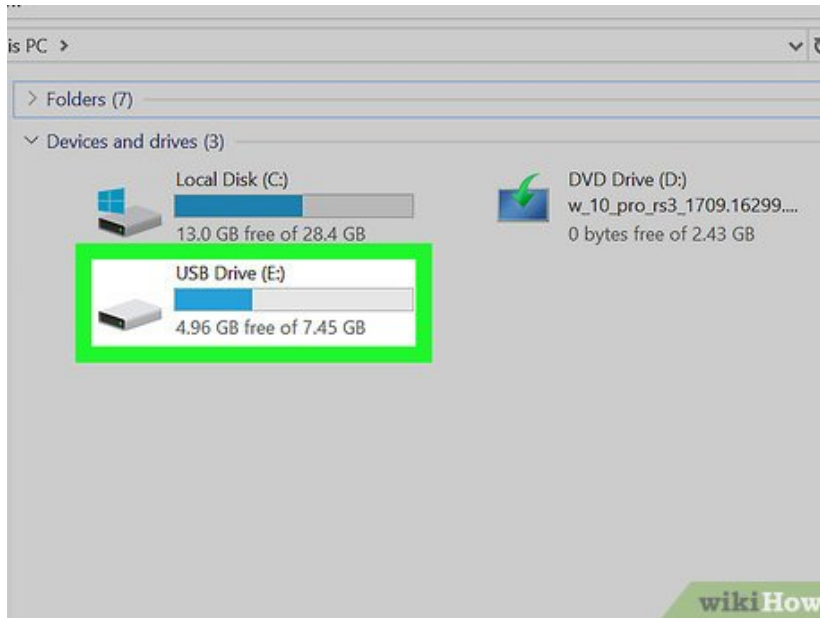
Windows

1. **Plug the flash drive into your PC.** You can connect your flash drive to any working USB port on your computer.



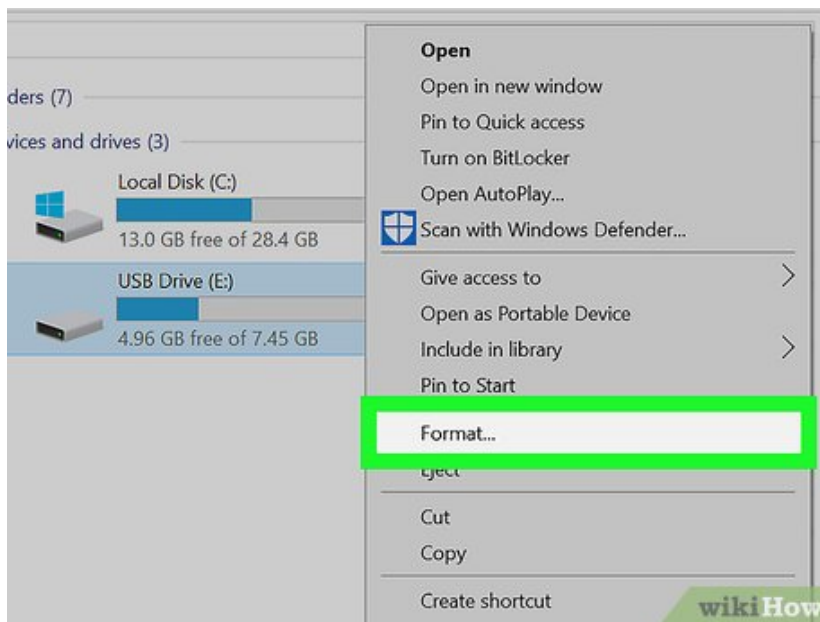
Double-click **This PC**. It's the computer icon on your desktop.

1. If you don't see this icon, press **Win + E** to open the File Explorer, then double-click **This PC** in the left sidebar.



3.

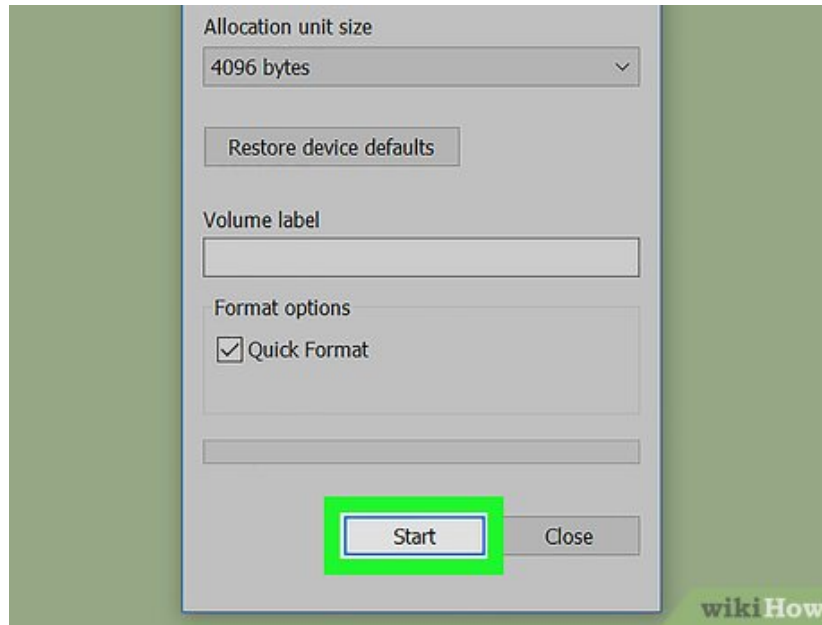
Right-click your flash drive. It's under the 'Devices and drives' header in the right panel. A drop-down menu will appear.



4.

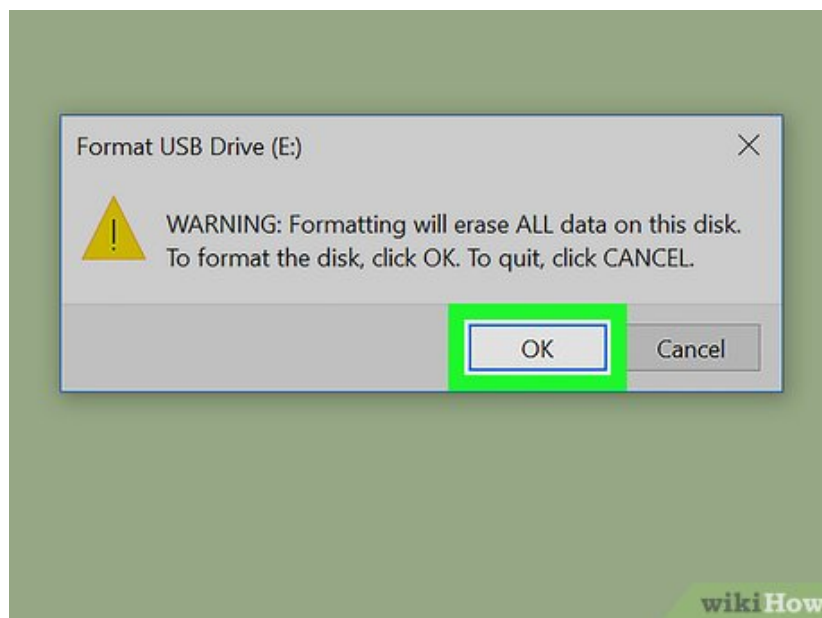
Click **Format...**. The Format window will appear.

5.

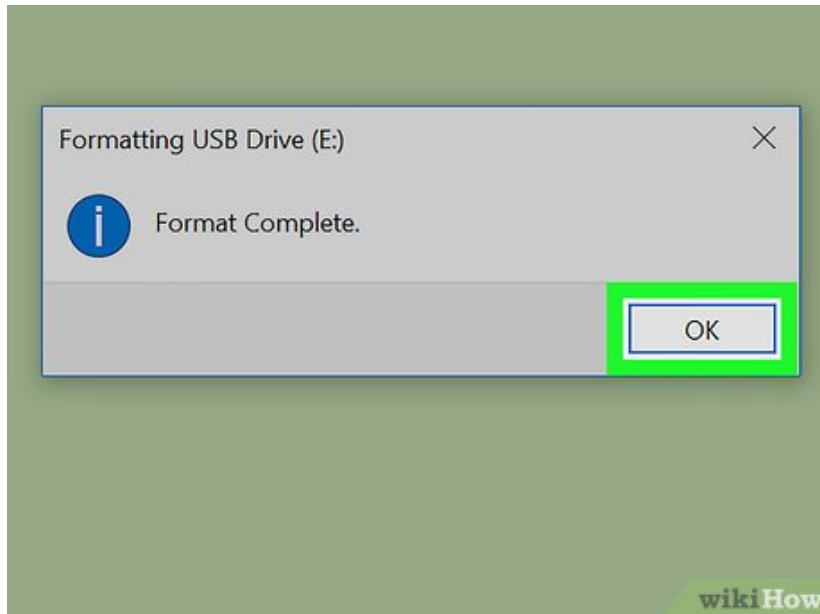


Click **Start**. It's at the bottom of the window. A confirmation message will appear, letting you know that all data on the drive will be erased.

6.



Click **OK**. Windows will now remove all of the data from your flash drive. You'll see a message that says 'Format Complete' once the drive is cleared.

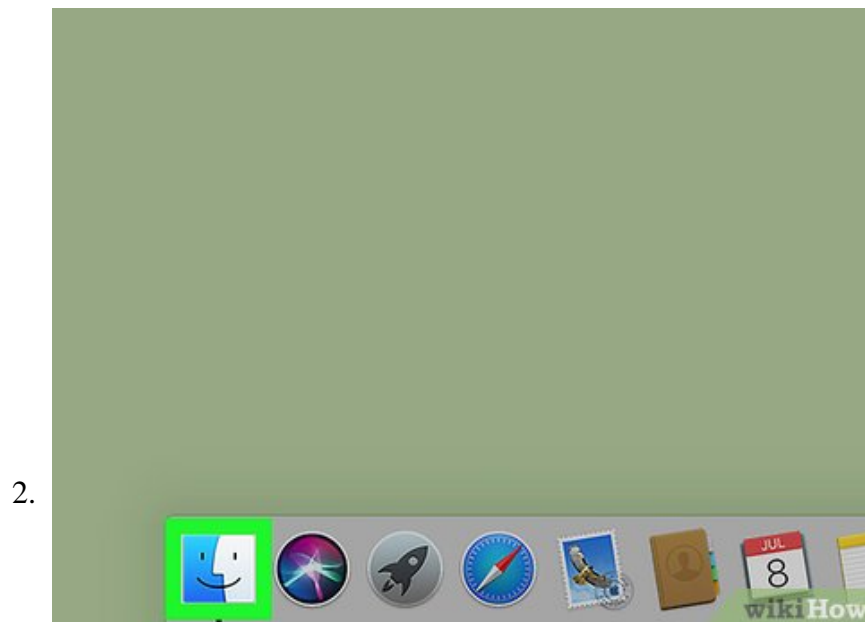


Click **OK**. This closes the window.

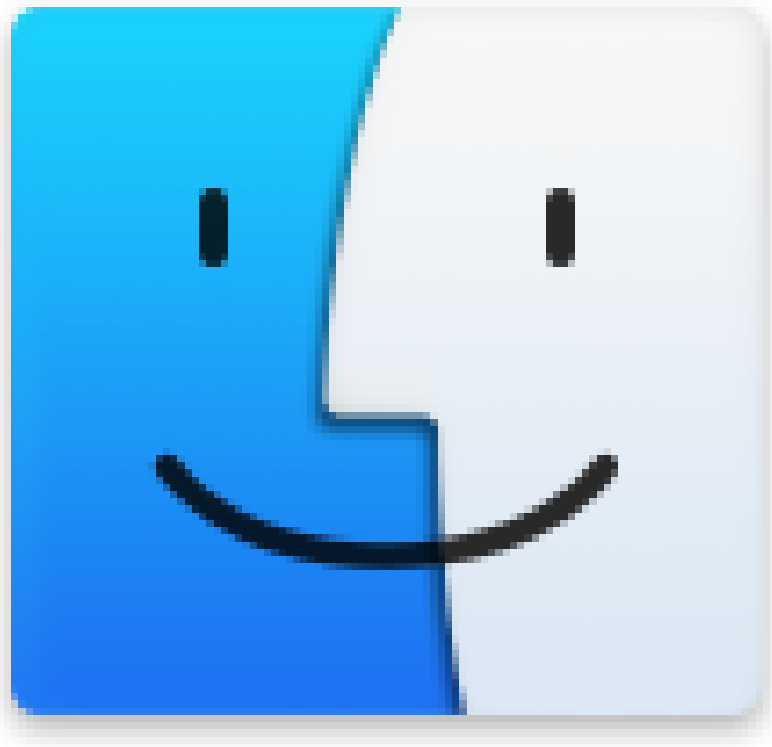
Method 2 of 2:

macOS

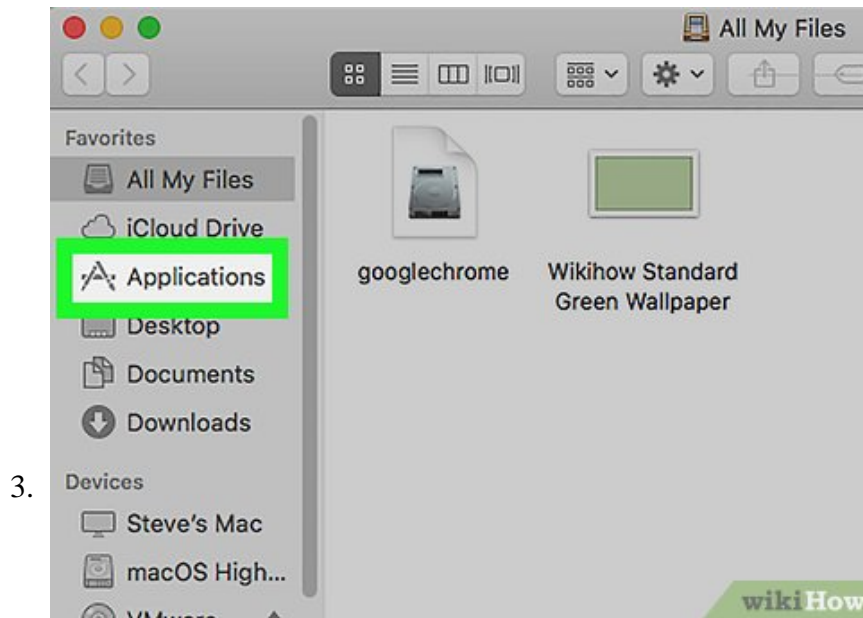
1. **Plug the flash drive into your Mac.** You can connect your flash drive to any working USB port on your computer.



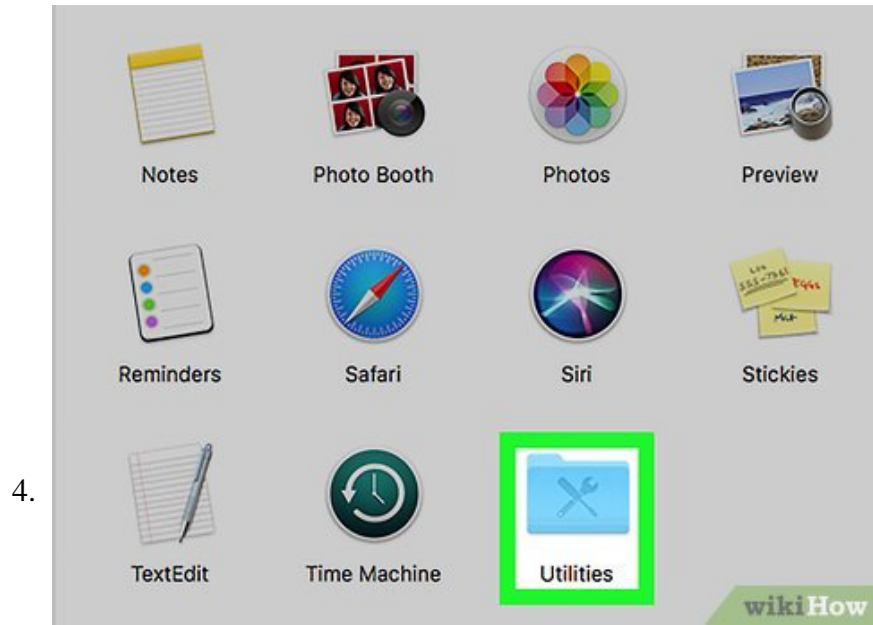
Open Finder



. It's on the Dock.



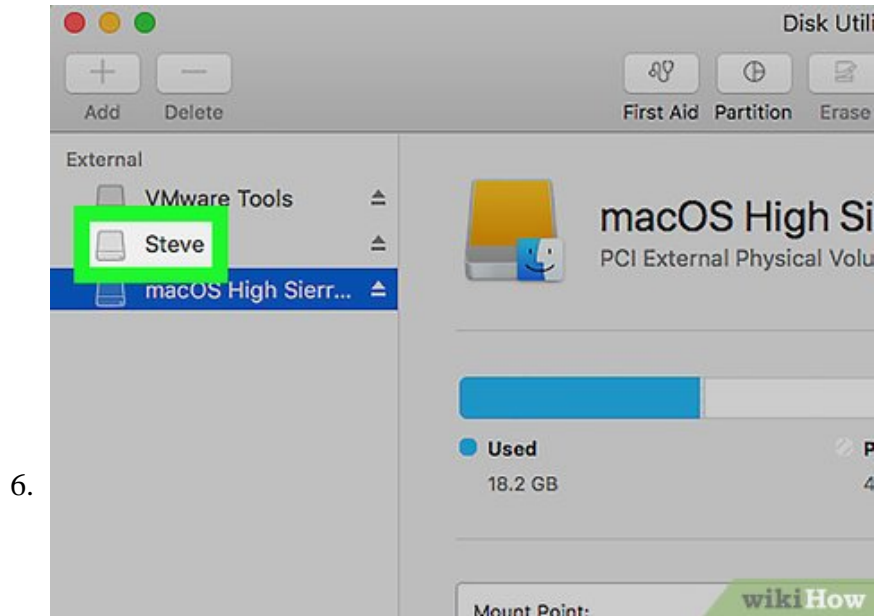
Open the `Applications` folder. Click **Applications** in the left sidebar, or double-click Applications in the right panel.



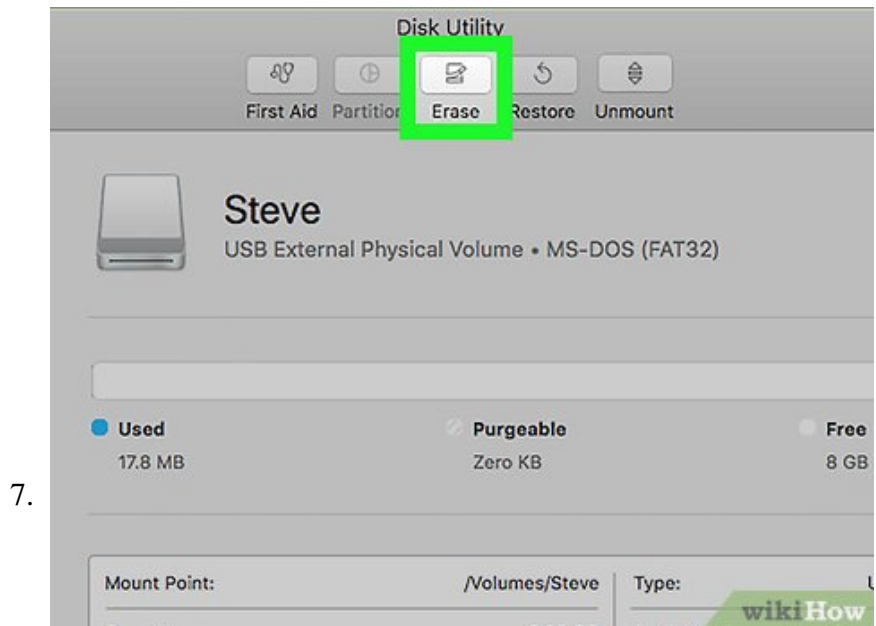
Double-click the **Utilities** folder.



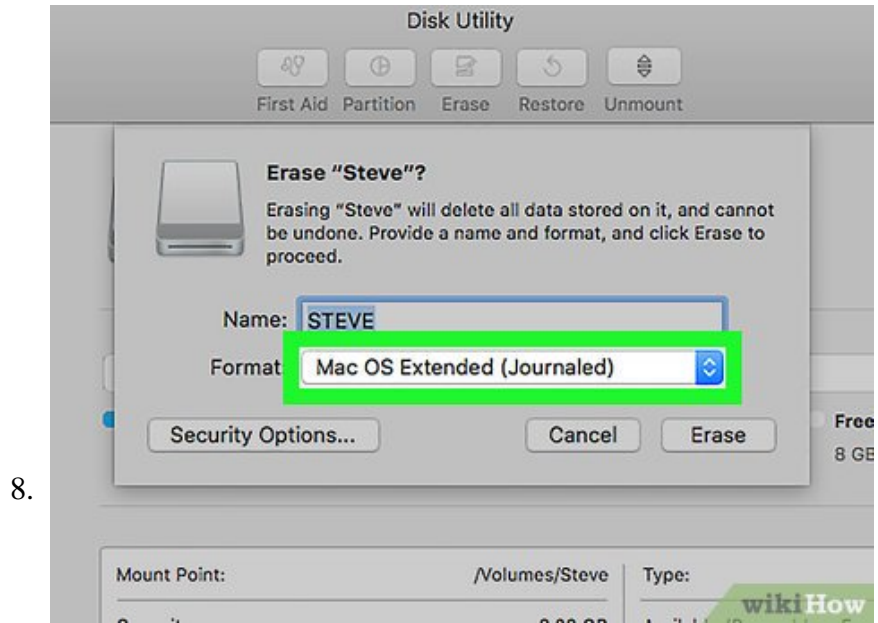
Double-click **Disk Utility**.



Select your flash drive. It's in the left panel.^[1]

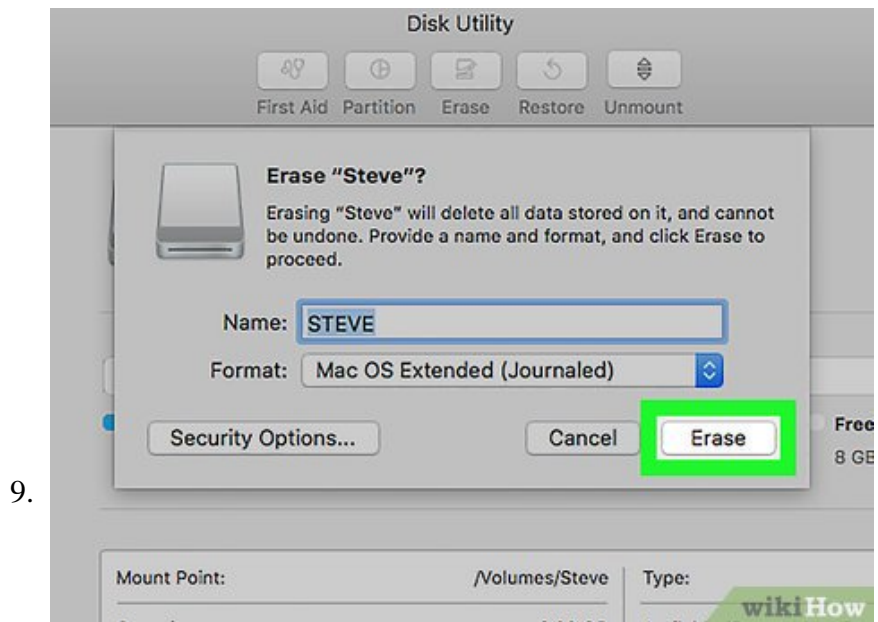


Click the **Erase** tab. It's at the top of the right panel.



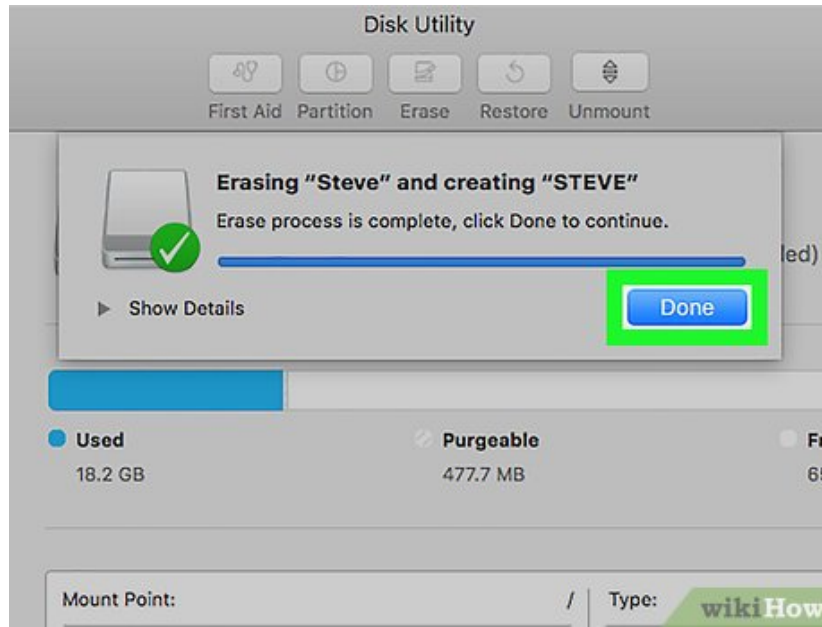
Select a format. The default formatting option is **OS X Extended (Journaled)** should work for most people.^[2]

1. If you want to erase all of the files and use the drive on a Windows PC, select **MS-DOS (Fat)** instead.



Click **Erase...** . It's at the bottom-right corner of the window. A confirmation message will appear.^[3]

10.



Click **Erase**. This removes all of the files from your flash drive.

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