

How to copy, delete, move, rename files/folders using PowerShell on Windows PC

You can copy, delete, move or rename your files or folders on your Windows PC using PowerShell.

Although simpler and quicker methods exist - such as using a GUI - using PowerShell has its own benefits.

For example, with PowerShell, you can automate many of your tasks by writing scripts, manage other computers remotely, and have more administrative control than you would otherwise. So, if you're someone who likes to have more control over your work, then using PowerShell is the obvious choice.

Let's go through all the individual commands, starting with copying.

How to copy files or folders using PowerShell

PowerShell is an all-in-one utility for Windows administrators and enthusiasts alike. You can easily copy your files or folders using PowerShell. To get started, first launch PowerShell, then use the **copy-item** command to copy your files from PowerShell. Here's how:

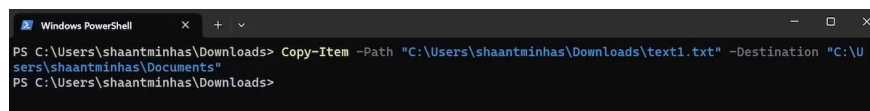
1. Go to the search bar in the Start menu, type '**powershell**' and press **Enter**.
2. Now, use the '**Set-Location**' cmdlet to change the directory of your files. For example, to go to the **Downloads** folder on your computer, enter the following command and press **Enter** :

```
Set-Location -Path "C:\Users[Username]Downloads"
```

3. Once you are in the correct path, enter the following command and press Enter:

```
Copy-Item -Path "text1.txt" -Destination "C:DestinationFolder"
```

Replace **text1.txt** with the path of the file you want to copy and replace **C:DestinationFolder** with the path of the folder you want to paste your copied files into. Enter the command and your files will be instantly copied from one place to another.



```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads> Copy-Item -Path "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads\text1.txt" -Destination "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents"
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads>
```

You can check if your files were copied successfully by using the DIR cmdlet to list the files in the specified directory.

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads> Copy-Item -Path "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads\text1.txt" -Destination "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents"
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads> CD\
PS C:\> CD \Users\shaantminhas\Documents
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents> DIR

Directory: C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents

Mode                LastWriteTime         Length Name
----                -
-a-----          6/7/2023   4:12 PM             0 text1.txt

PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents>
```

How to copy folders using PowerShell

In the case of directories, you just need to slightly adjust the last command. This is the way:

```
Copy-Item -Path ".exampleFolder" -Destination 'C:DestinationFolder' ~Recurse
```

PowerShell will copy the selected folder and its contents.

How to move files or folders using PowerShell

Similar to copying, you can use a simple command to move your files or folders on PowerShell. Here's how:

Once you have launched PowerShell, enter the following command and press **Enter** :

```
Move-Item -Path "filename.txt" -Destination "C:DestinationFolder"
```

Again, replace **filename.txt** with the full path of the file and **DestinationFolder** with the path of the folder you want to move your files to.

```
Windows PowerShell
Copyright (C) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

Install the latest PowerShell for new features and improvements! https://aka.ms/PSWindows

PS C:\Users\shaantminhas> CD Downloads
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads> Move-Item -Path "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads\text1.txt" -Destination "C:\Users\shaantminhas\Documents"
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads> DIR
PS C:\Users\shaantminhas\Downloads>
```

After that, you can check if your file has been moved using the DIR command. If you don't see your file in the old folder, you can rest assured that the file has been moved to the specified destination.

To move multiple files at once, use the following command and press **Enter** :

```
Move-Item -Path "file1.txt", "file2.txt" -Destination "C:DestinationFolder"
```

How to move folders using PowerShell

Again, similar to the copy command above, you can also move folders. Here is the command to execute:

```
Move-Item -Path "FolderName" -Destination "C:DestinationFolder"
```

How to delete files or folders using PowerShell

Follow the steps below and you will be able to delete your files or folders using PowerShell in no time:

1. Enter cmdlet **Remove-Item** followed by the file path and press **Enter** :

```
Remove-Item -Path "filename.txt"
```

1. Now, replace "**filename.txt**" with the name of the file you want to delete.

To delete multiple files, adjust *the cmdlet* by adding different file names to the path parameters (separated by commas) and pressing **Enter** :

```
Remove-Item -Path "file1.txt", "file2.txt", "file3.txt"
```

How to delete folders using PowerShell

Once you have launched PowerShell, enter the **Remove-Item cmdlet, along with the Recurse** parameter , and press **Enter** :

```
Remove-Item -Path "Folder" -Recurse
```

Replace "**Folder**" with the path of the folder you want to delete. In general, when you are trying to delete a file or folder, you will receive a confirmation prompt. You can bypass this prompt and delete your files immediately by adding the **-Force** parameter at the end of the command.

Rename files using PowerShell

Again, right-clicking on the file in question, then selecting *Rename* works best in most cases, but not always. In cases where there are problems, PowerShell can help.

After you have launched PowerShell, enter the following command to rename your file and press **Enter** :

```
Rename-Item -Path "C:pathtooldfilename.txt" -NewName "newfilename.txt"
```

Rename folders using PowerShell

To rename a folder, use the same *Rename-Item* cmdlet; Type it into PowerShell and press **Enter** :

```
Rename-Item -Path "C:Downloadsoldfoldername" -NewName "newfoldername"
```

You finished reading the article "**How to copy, delete, move, rename files/folders using PowerShell on Windows PC**" 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.