

# How to delete thumbs.db file on Windows 10

delete thumbs.db file, In this tutorial, you are guided step by step to delete thumbs.db file and remove network folders on Windows 10.

On Windows 10, **thumbs.db** are hidden files created when using Thumbnails Preview (thumbnail preview) for folders in File Explorer.

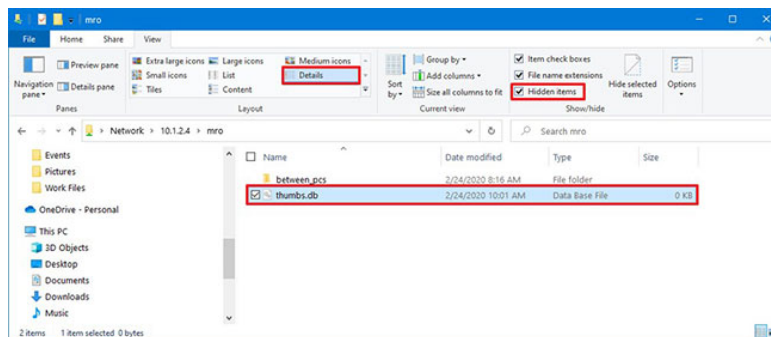
Although these files are harmless, they can sometimes cause problems. For example, if you moved content from a **Windows 10 device** to a shared network, then you want to delete the folder, you'll get the message *'The action can't be completed because the file is open in Windows Explorer'*, which involves the thumbs.db file preventing you from deleting the directory.

In this tutorial, you are guided step by step to delete thumbs.db file and remove network folders on Windows 10.

## How to delete thumbs.db file with File Explorer

To delete file thumbs.db:

1. Open **File Explorer**.
2. Navigate to the directory you want to delete.
3. Click the **View** tab .
4. Select the **Hidden items** option .
5. In the **Layout** section, select the **Details** view option .
6. Select file thumbs.db.



Select file thumbs.db

7. Click the **Delete** button from the **View** tab .

8. Click the **Yes** button .

When you complete the steps, the thumbs.db file will be deleted without a problem. However, if the steps above do not work, you can switch to another view, then select the **Details** view again .

## How to delete thumbs.db file by turning off Preview Caching

In case thumbs.db cannot be deleted, you can try disabling the Thumbnail Previews feature on Windows 10.

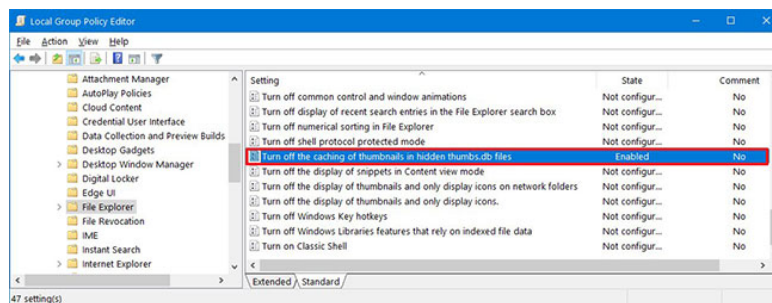
### Disable thumbs.db with Group Policy

To disable thumbs.db cache writing for network folders, follow these steps:

1. Open **Start**.
2. Search for **gpedit** and click on the first result, open **Group Policy Editor** .
3. Click **User Configuration** from the left panel.
4. Browse to the following link:

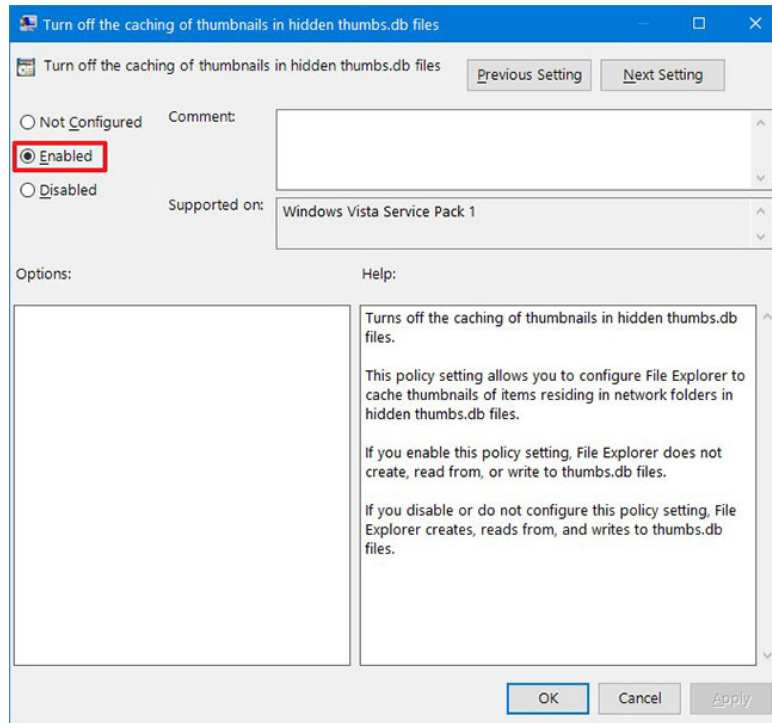
Administrative Templates > Windows Components > File Explorer

5. Double-click the policy **Turn off the caching of thumbnails in hidden thumbs.db files** .



Double-click the policy Turn off the caching of thumbnails in hidden thumbs.db files

6. Select the **Enabled** option to turn off the feature.



Select the Enabled option to turn off the feature

7. Click the **Apply** button .

8. Click the **OK** button .

9. Restart the computer.

After you complete the steps, you should now be able to delete the thumbs.db file.

## **Disable thumbs.db with the Registry**

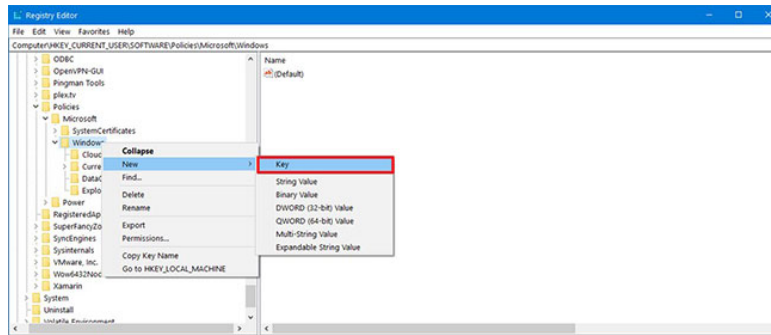
1. Open **Start**.

2. Search for **regedit** , right-click on the top result and select the option **Run as administrator** .

3. Browse the following link:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USERSoftwarePoliciesMicrosoftWindows
```

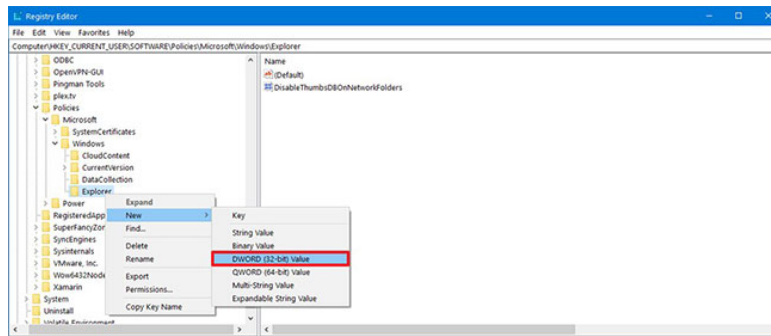
4. Right-click on the Windows folder, select **New** and click **Key**.



Select New and click Key

5. Name the key **Explorer** and press Enter .

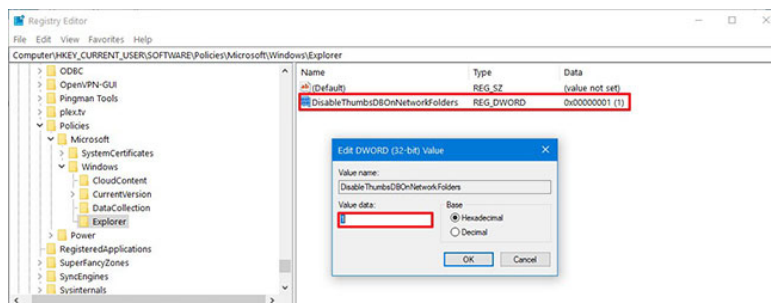
6. Right-click the newly created key and select **New** , then click the **DWORD (32-bit) Value** option .



Click the **DWORD (32-bit) Value** option

7. Double click on the newly created **DWORD** and change its value from **0** to **1** .

8. Click the **OK** button .



Click the **OK** button

9. Restart the computer.

Once you complete the steps, the new settings will apply and you will now be able to delete the thumbs.db file without the message *'The action can't be completed because the file is open in Windows Explorer'* .

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