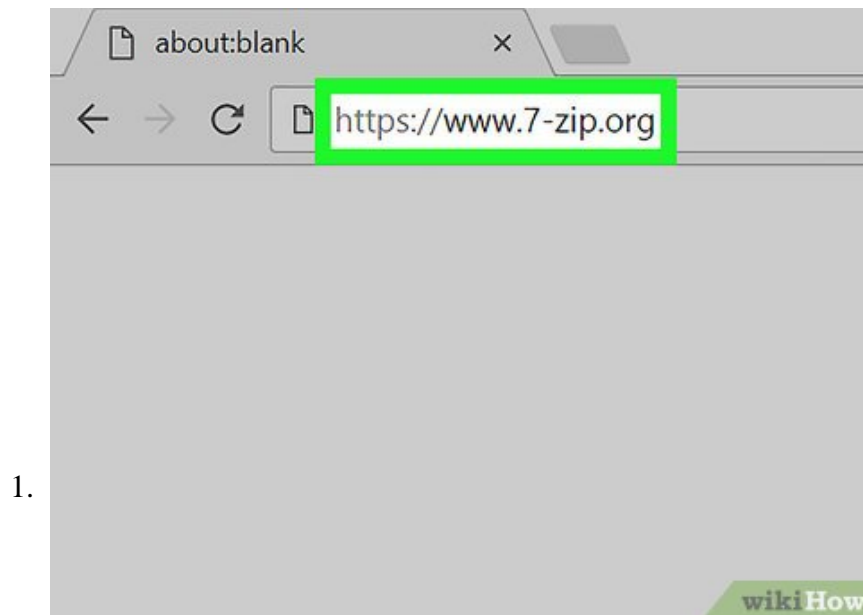


How to Encrypt a Folder on Windows

This wikiHow teaches you how to encrypt folders on your Windows PC. Because Windows does not come with the ability to encrypt folders, you'll need to install a free app called 7-Zip. Go to <https://www.7-zip.org>. This is the website for...

Part 1 of 2:

Installing 7-Zip



Go to <https://www.7-zip.org>. This is the website for 7-zip, a free Windows application that can be used to encrypt your folders.

7-Zip

7-Zip is a file archiver with a high compression ratio.

Download 7-Zip 16.04 (2016-10-04) for Windows:

Link	Type	Windows	Size
Download	.exe	32-bit x86	1 MB
Download	.exe	64-bit x64	1 MB

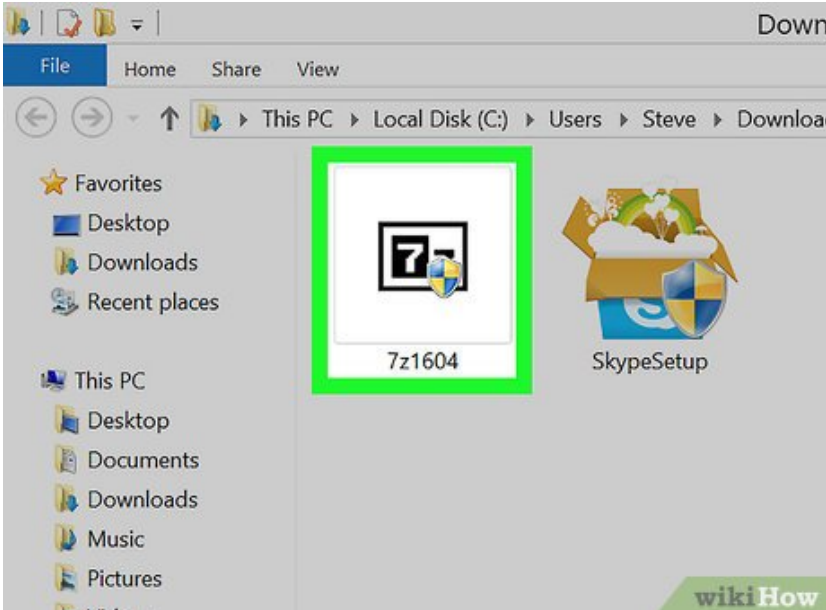
License

2. **7-Zip is open source** software. Most of the source code is under the **GNU LGPL** license. The unRAR code is under a mixed GNU LGPL + unRAR restrictions. Check license information at [Zip license](#).

wikiHow

Click **Download**. Be sure to click the link for your version of Windows (32-bit or 64-bit). The installer will now download to your computer.

3.



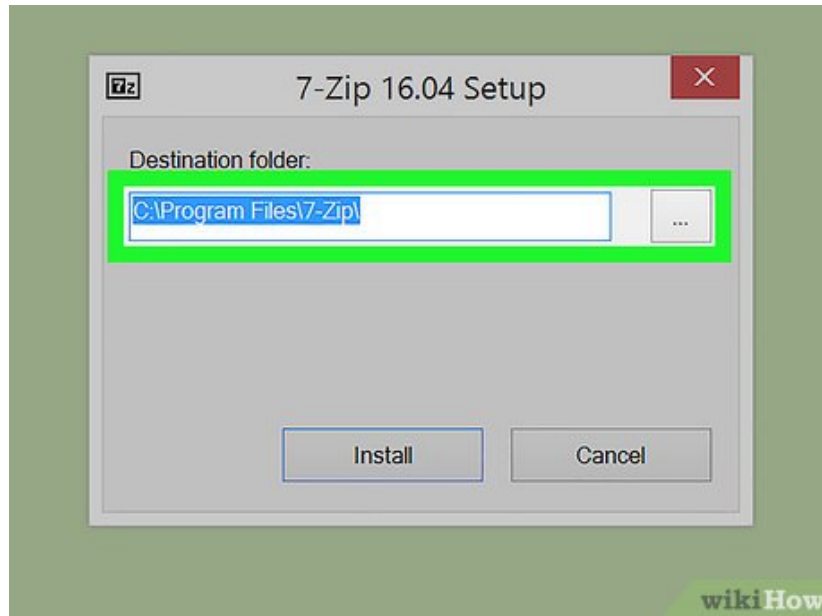
The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window with the address bar set to 'This PC > Local Disk (C:) > Users > Steve > Downloads'. The left sidebar shows 'Favorites' (Desktop, Downloads, Recent places) and 'This PC' (Desktop, Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures). The main pane displays two files: '7z1604' and 'SkypeSetup'. The '7z1604' file icon, which is a black square with a white '7' and a blue shield, is highlighted with a green rectangular border.

wikiHow

Open the installer. This is the file you just downloaded. You may see a link to the file at the bottom of your web browser. Click it, then select Open if prompted.

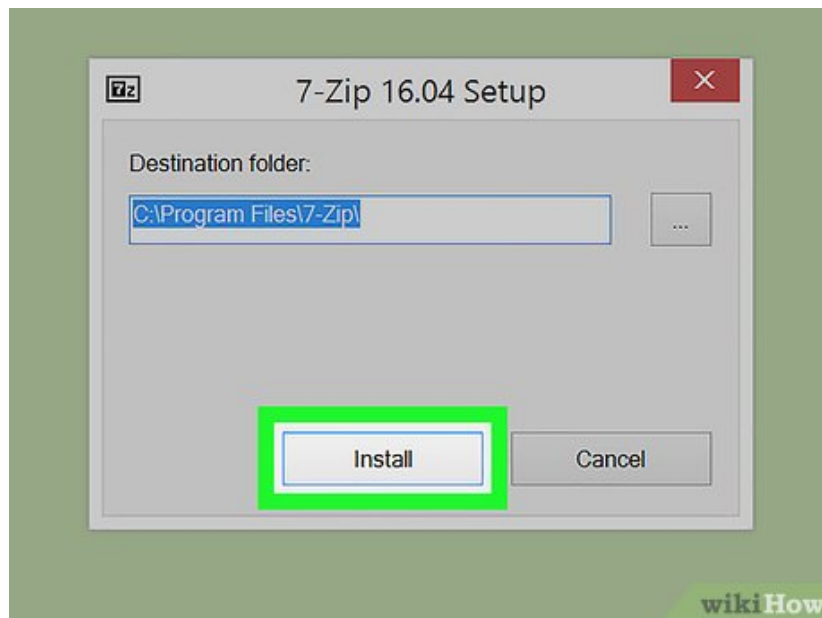
1. If you don't see it in your browser, you should find it in the **Downloads** folder.

4.



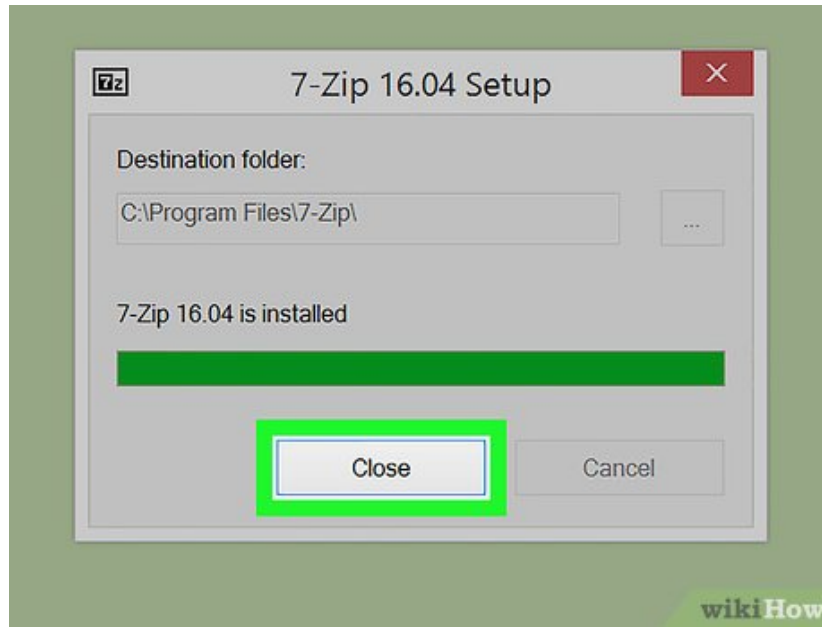
Select a folder for 7-zip. The default option (c:Program Files7-Zip) should work for most people.

5.



Click . Once the installation is complete, the 'Install' button will change to 'Close.'

6.



Click **Close**. 7-Zip is now installed on your computer.

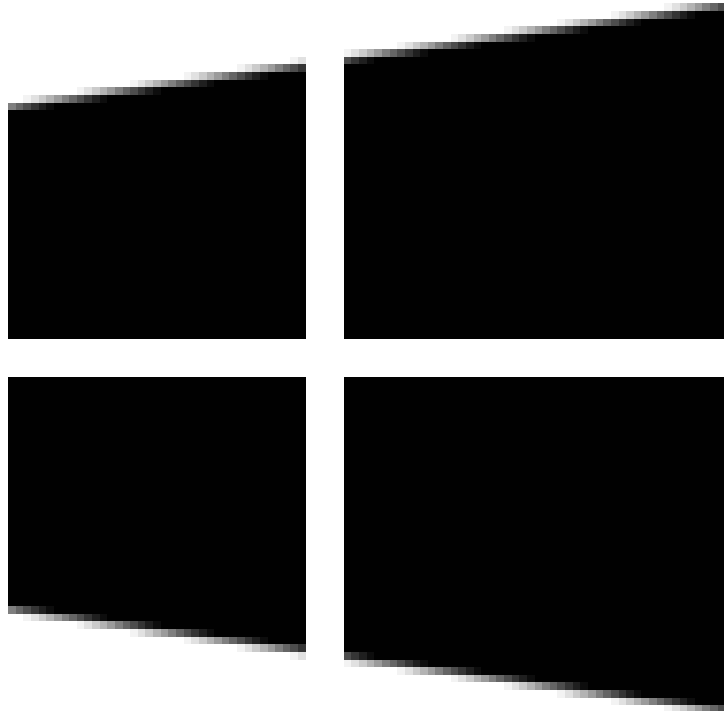
Part 2 of 2:

Encrypting a Folder

1.



Open 7-Zip. You will find it in the

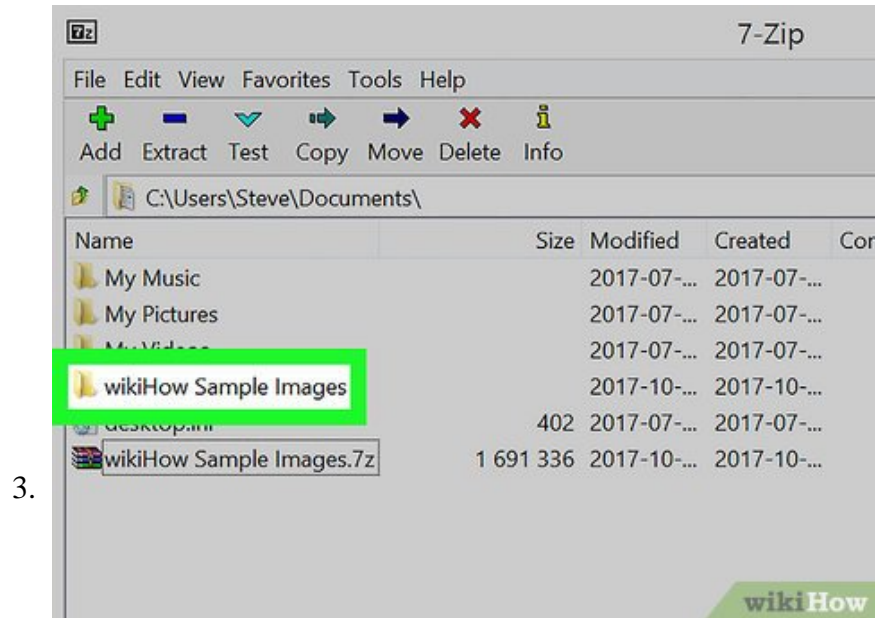


menu. This opens a list of all folders on your computer.

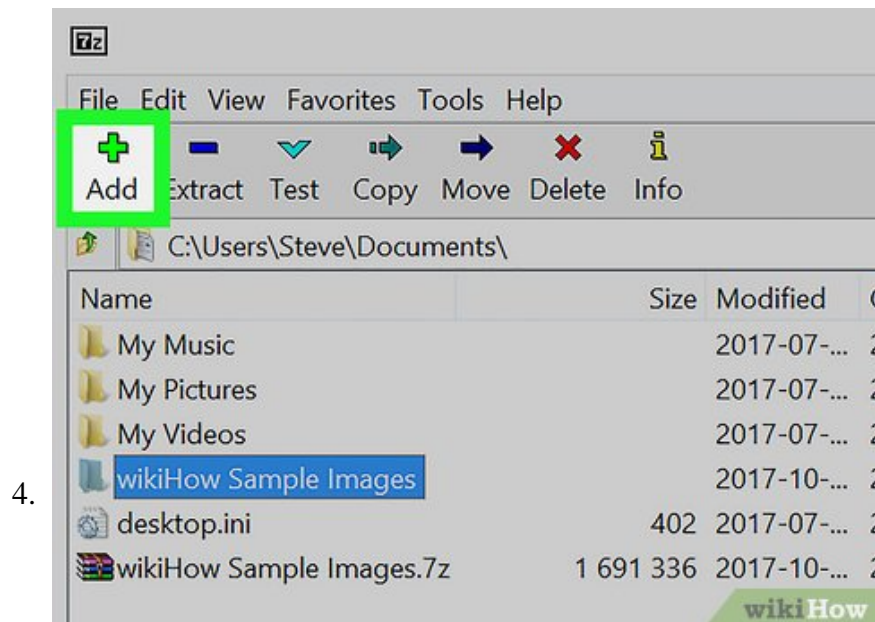


Navigate to the folder you want to encrypt. Just make sure it's visible on the screen—don't open it.

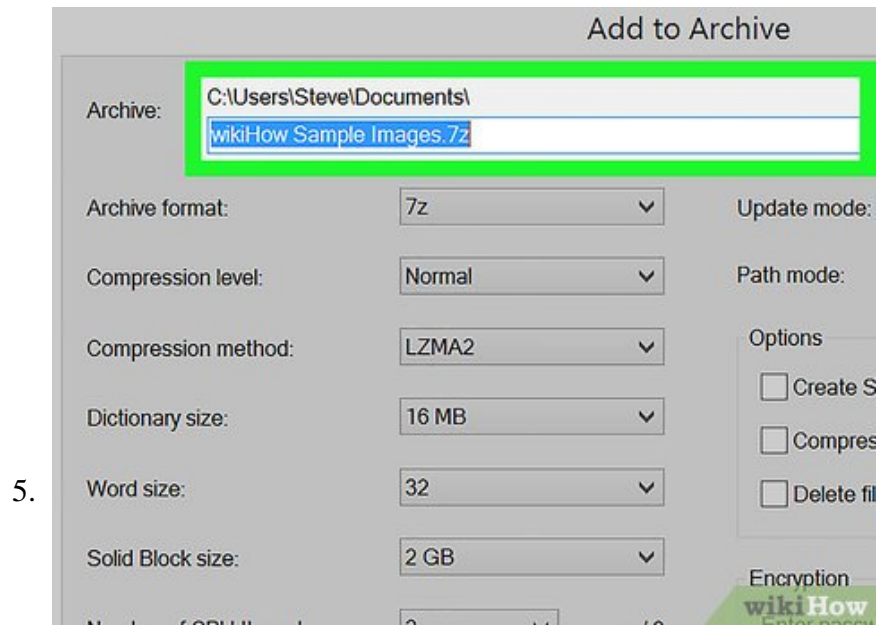
1. For example, if you want to encrypt a folder that's in your own **Documents** folder, double-click **Users**, then double-click your username. You'll see the **Documents** folder inside the **Users** folder.



Click the folder you want to encrypt. It is now highlighted in a different color, which means it's selected.

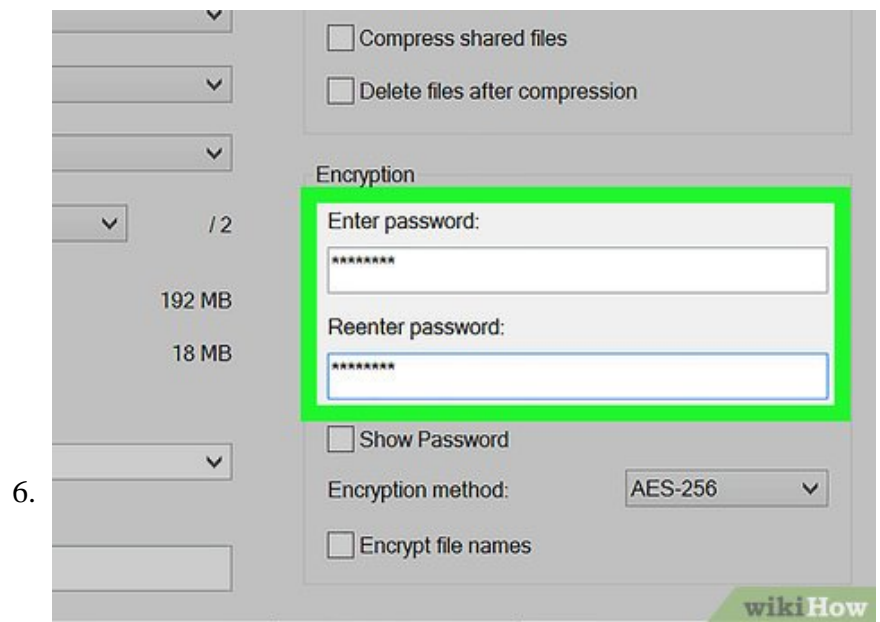


Click **Add**. It's the first icon at the top of 7-Zip. You'll also see a '+' symbol on the button. A window will appear.



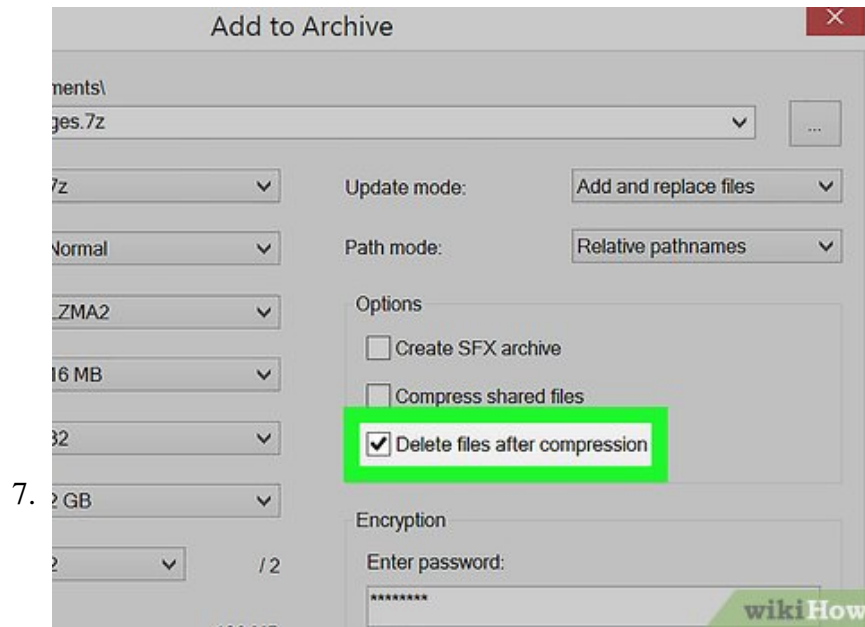
Select a folder from the 'Archive' drop-down menu. This is where the encrypted folder will be stored.

1. Use the ? button to locate the folder.

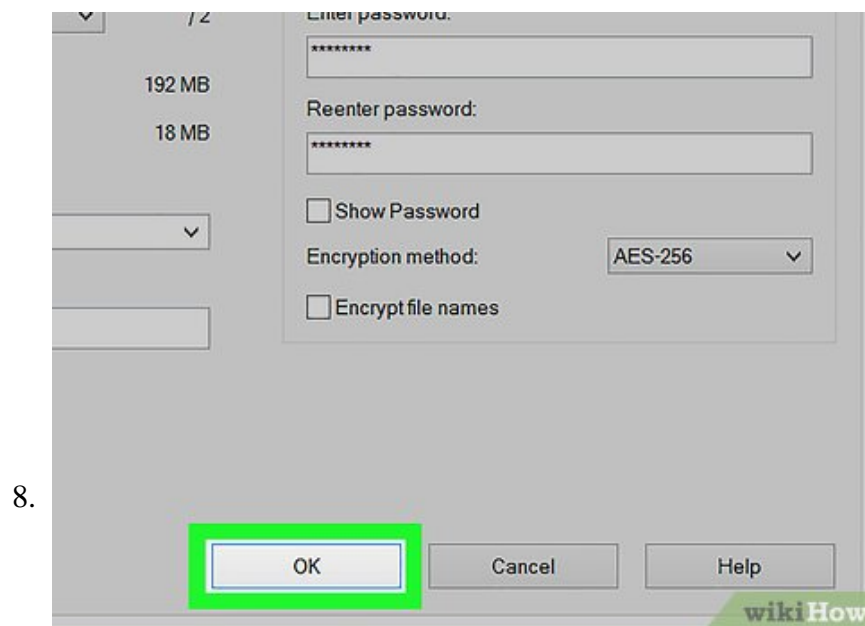


Set a password for your encrypted folder. To do this, type a password into the first box in the 'Encryption' area, then type it into the second box for confirmation.

1. It's extremely important that you remember this password, as you'll need it to access these files.
2. The default encryption method is AES-256. You'll see that it's selected from the Encryption drop-down. There's no need to change it.



Check the box next to 'Delete files after compression.' This ensures that there will be no unencrypted version of the folder, making it safe from prying eyes.



Click . The folder is now encrypted. When you try to open it, you'll be prompted to enter a password.

You finished reading the article "**How to Encrypt a Folder on Windows**" 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.