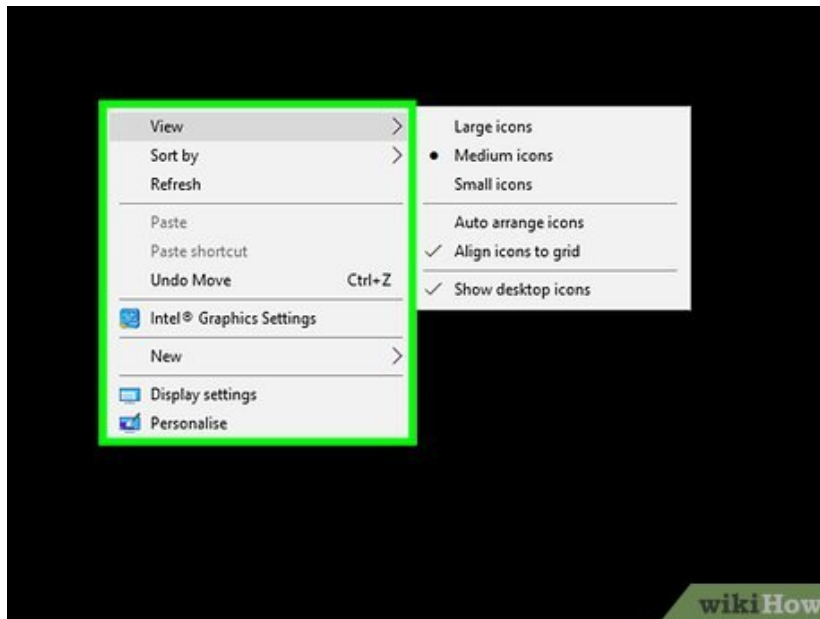


How to Hide Desktop Icons

Is your desktop getting a little too cluttered? If you're hesitant to start deleting icons, you can hide them from view. This will allow you to see your awesome wallpaper or prevent you from accidentally opening programs and files when you...

Method 1 of 4:

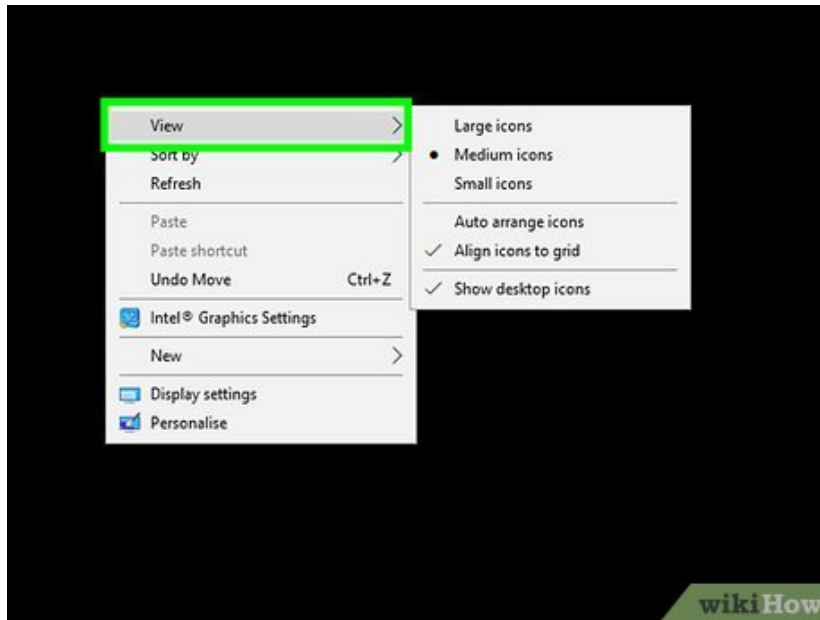
Windows



1.

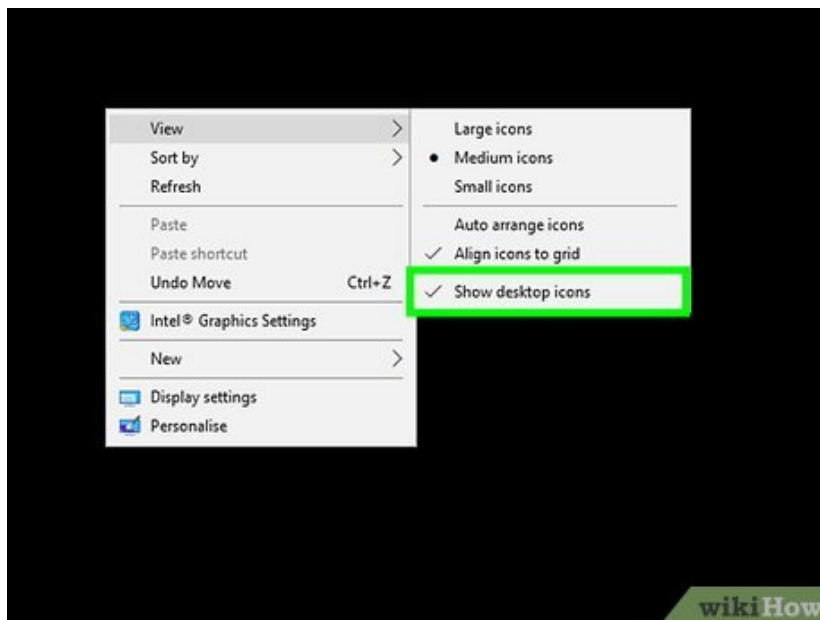
Right-click on the desktop. Windows allows you to quickly hide all of your desktop icons with just a few clicks. Right-click on a blank spot on the desktop. If you right-click an icon, you will get the wrong menu.

2.



Select *View*. If you are using Windows XP, select *Arrange Icons By*.

3.



Toggle *Show desktop icons*. Toggling this off will hide all of the icons on your desktop. They will no longer be selectable. Any icons created or added to the desktop will be hidden automatically. You can turn your icons back on by repeating the process.

Download Fences

Features	30-Day Trial	Fences	Object Desktop
		Get it Now	Get it Now
NEW! Use fences on modern, high DPI monitors.	✓	✓	✓
Create shaded areas to organize your desktop.	✓	✓	✓
NEW! Blur the wallpaper behind fences on Windows 10.	✓	✓	✓
NEW! Roll up fences to the Title-bar for cleaner desktops.	✓	✓	✓
Double click the desktop to hide or show icons.	✓	✓	✓
Define rules to organize your desktop icons.	✓	✓	✓
Swipe between multiple pages of fences.	✓	✓	✓
Create a desktop portal from any folder.	✓	✓	✓
NEW! Navigate the folder structure from within the fence.	✓	✓	✓
NEW! Windows 10 compatibility.	✓	✓	✓
Uniform Fences layout template (learn more)	✓	✓	✓
License activation server options (learn more)	✓	✓	✓
Supported OSes: Windows 10/8/7	✓	✓	✓
Object Desktop™ (includes Fences)			✓
Groupy™			✓
Start10™			✓
Multiplicity™ KM			✓
DeskScapes™			✓

wikiHow

4.

Install a program to hide your icons quicker. A desktop management program, such as Fences, will allow you to quickly hide your icons with a double-click on the desktop, as well as choose icons to exclude from being hidden.

1. Fences costs \$10 USD, but has a 30-day trial period.

Method 2 of 4:

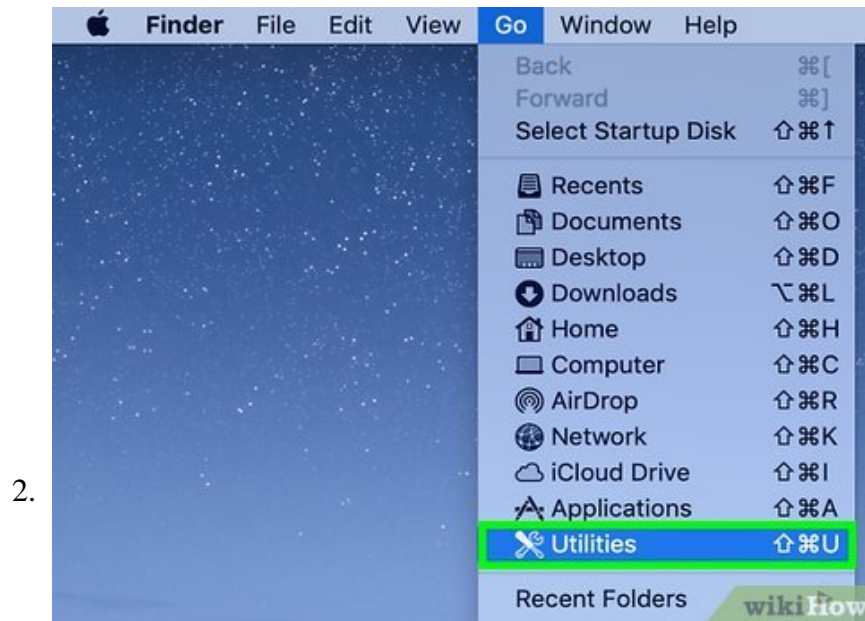
Mac OS X

1.

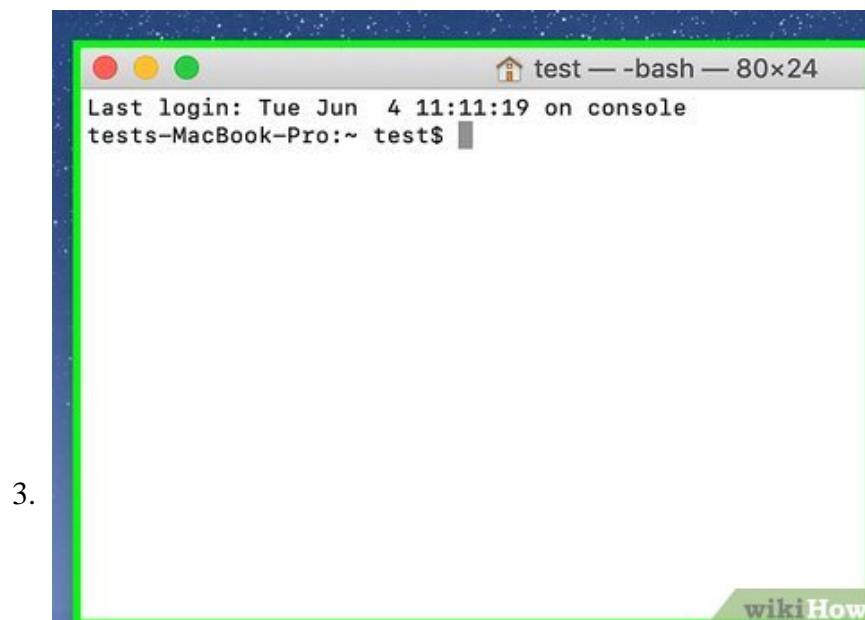


Hide system icons. While hiding your icons on a Mac isn't as straightforward as on Windows, it can still be done. The easiest thing you can do is turn off all of your system icons, such as your hard drives, inserted discs, and servers. This will prevent them from appearing on the desktop.

1. Click **Finder** and select *Preferences*. You may need to open a Finder window for the **Finder** menu to appear.
2. Click the General tab.
3. Uncheck the boxes for the icons you want to hide.

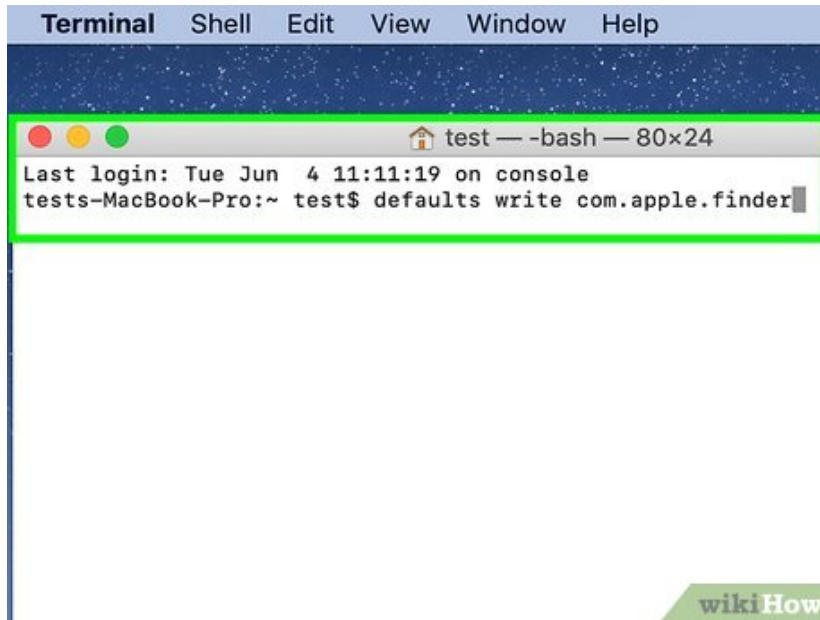


Hide the rest of your icons using the Terminal. You can hide all of the icons on your desktop by using Terminal commands. Click **Go** and select *Utilities*. Double-click "Terminal".



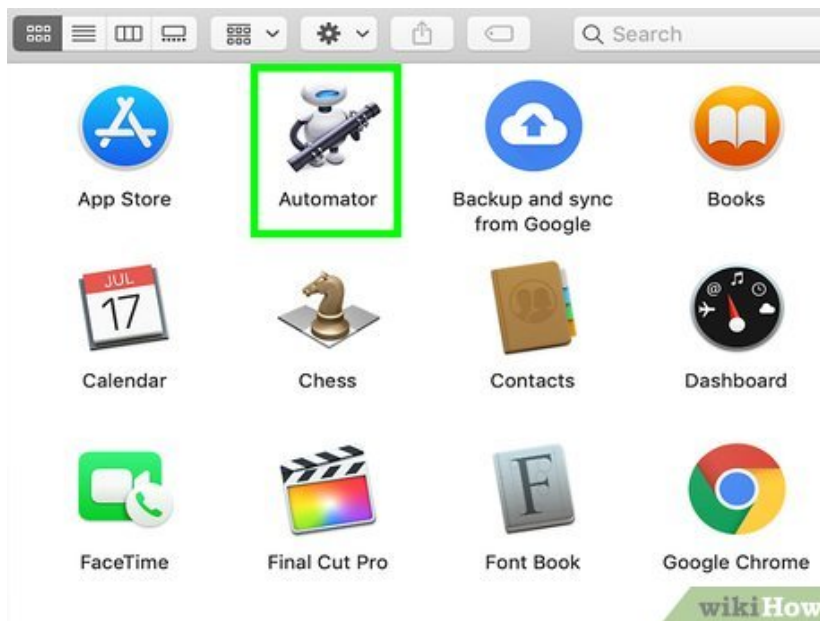
Turn off the desktop. Enter the following command to hide all of the icons on the desktop:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop false; killall Finder
```



Turn the icons back on. If you want to show the icons again, enter the following command:

```
defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop true; killall Finder
```



Make an Automator script. If you find yourself hiding your icons often, you can create an Automator script that will allow you to hide the icons in a few clicks. Open Automator from the Applications folder and choose the "Service" template. Set the right drop-down menu to "Finder" and the left drop-down menu to "no input". Search for and drag the "Run AppleScript" action to the main workflow. Paste the code below into the "Run AppleScript" field, replacing anything there already:

```
try set toggle to do shell script
"defaults read com.apple.finder CreateDesktop" if toggle = "true" then
```

```
do shell script "defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop false"
else if toggle = "false" then do shell script
"defaults write com.apple.finder CreateDesktop true" end if end try
do shell script "killall Finder" delay 0.5 activate application
"Finder"
```

[1]

1. Save the new service as an easy-to-remember name, such as "Hide/Show Desktop"
2. You can access your new script by clicking **Finder** ? *Services*
3. You will need to have run the Terminal commands from the previous steps at least once for the script to work.



Camouflage hides your Desktop Icons

Buy now for only \$9.99 — Follow us at Twitter: [@briksoftware](#)
Join us on Facebook: [briksoftware](#)

6. If you have a cluttered Desktop and just don't want to see your icons, or you just want to give a presentation and don't want your audience to see your desktop icons, Camouflage will help.

Sitting in the menu bar, Camouflage is easily accessible and can be quickly [reviewed](#)

Download an icon-hiding program. If you'd rather not fuss with scripts, you can download a program that will let you toggle your desktop on and off. Some programs will only do this, while other provide a range of desktop customization options as well. Some of the most popular programs include:

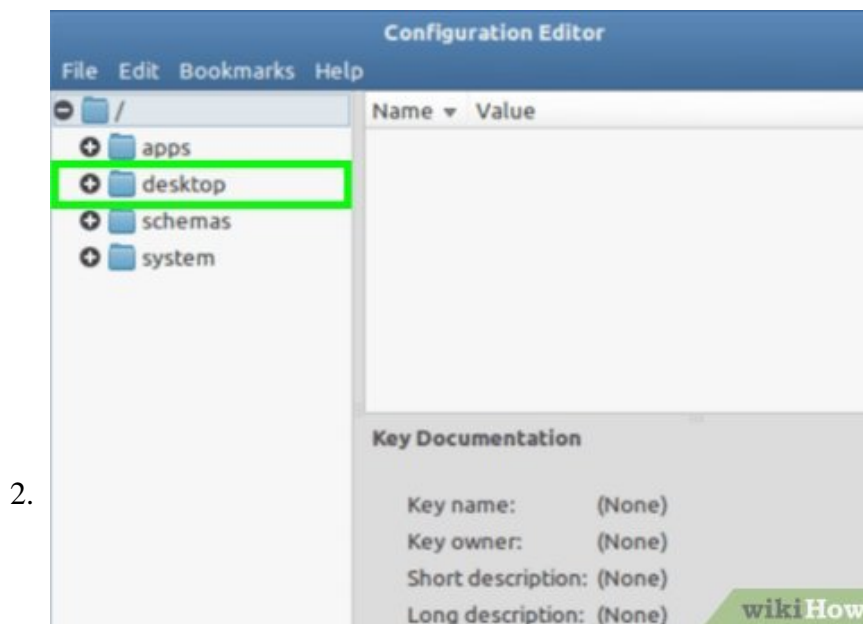
1. Camouflage
2. Hide Desktop

Method 3 of 4:

GNOME or MATE Linux

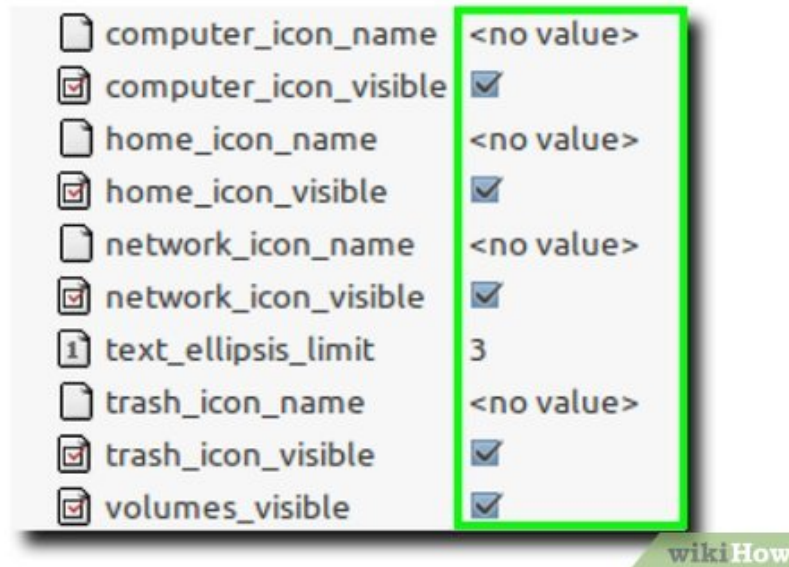


Open the Configuration Editor. Press `Alt + F2` and type `gconf-editor`. Click "Run". This will open the Configuration Editor. If the command doesn't work, try `mateconf-editor`.



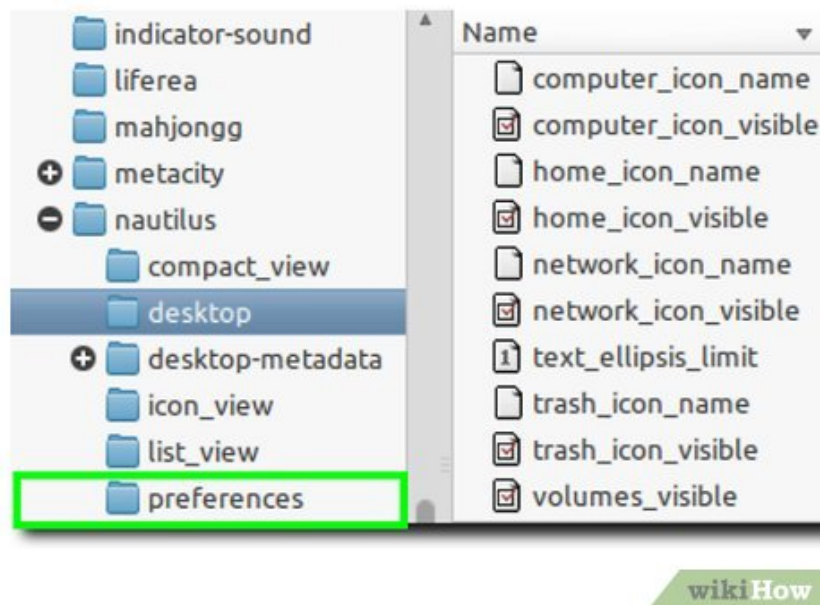
Navigate to the Desktop section. Use the left directory tree and navigate to "apps" ? "nautilus" ? "desktop".

3.



Hide your system icons. Uncheck the box next to each of the icons that you want to hide. You can choose to hide any of your system icons, which can be useful for items you rarely use. This usually includes your Home, Computer, Trash, and Drives.

4.



Hide your whole desktop. Navigate to "apps" ? "nautilus" ? "preferences". Find the "show_desktop" item in the right frame. Uncheck it to hide the whole desktop. If you are using a MATE environment, navigate to "apps" ? "caja" ? "preferences". [2]

5.

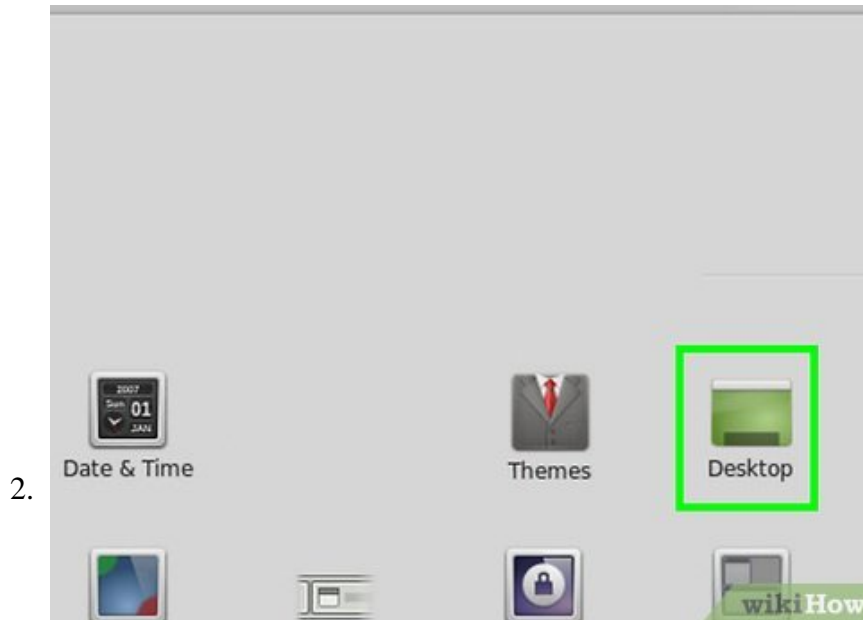
Download Ubuntu Tweak. If you are running Ubuntu, you can download Ubuntu Tweak. This allows you to quickly turn off your desktop icons from the Ubuntu Tweak menu. You can download and install Ubuntu Tweak from the Ubuntu Package Manager.

Method 4 of 4:

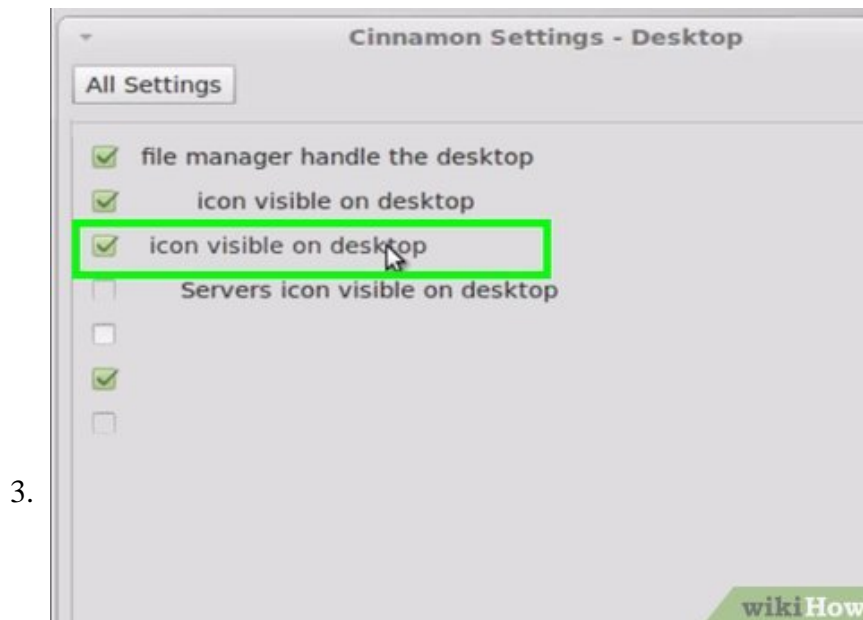
Linux Mint Cinnamon

1.

Open the System Settings menu. You can't hide all of the icons in Linux Mint Cinnamon. You can, however, hide the system icons from showing on the desktop. To do so, open the System Settings menu by clicking the Menu button, selecting "Preferences" and then "System Settings".^[3]



Open the "Desktop" option. This is located in the "Preferences" section.



Uncheck the icons you want to hide. You can turn off the Computer, Home, Trash, Mounted Volumes, and Network Servers. Changes take place immediately.

You finished reading the article "**How to Hide Desktop Icons**" 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.