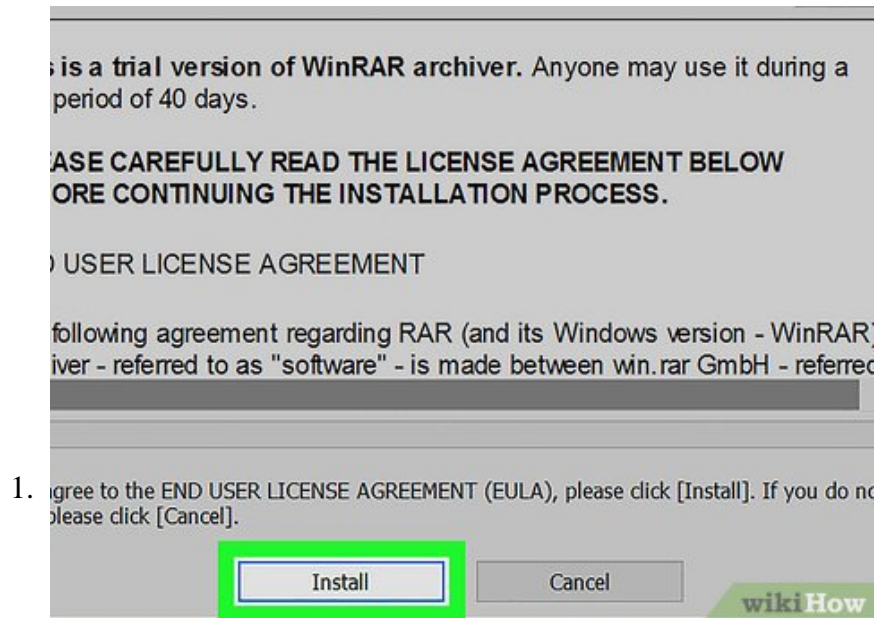


How to Protect a Zip File with a Password on PC or Mac

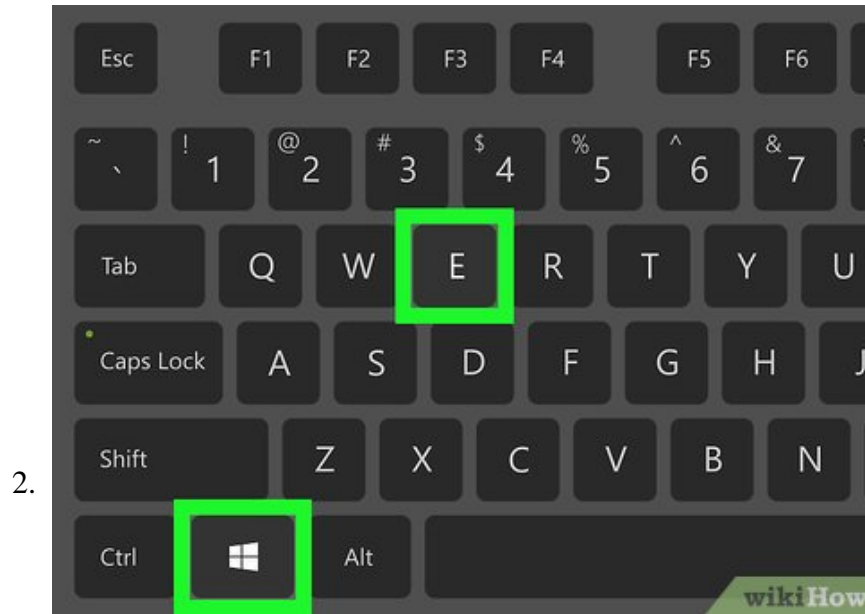
This wikiHow teaches you how to password-protect a zip archive using WinRAR for Windows, and macOS's built-in zip tool. Install WinRAR on your PC. If you don't already have this free archive tool, see Use WinRAR to learn how to get it.

Method 1 of 2:

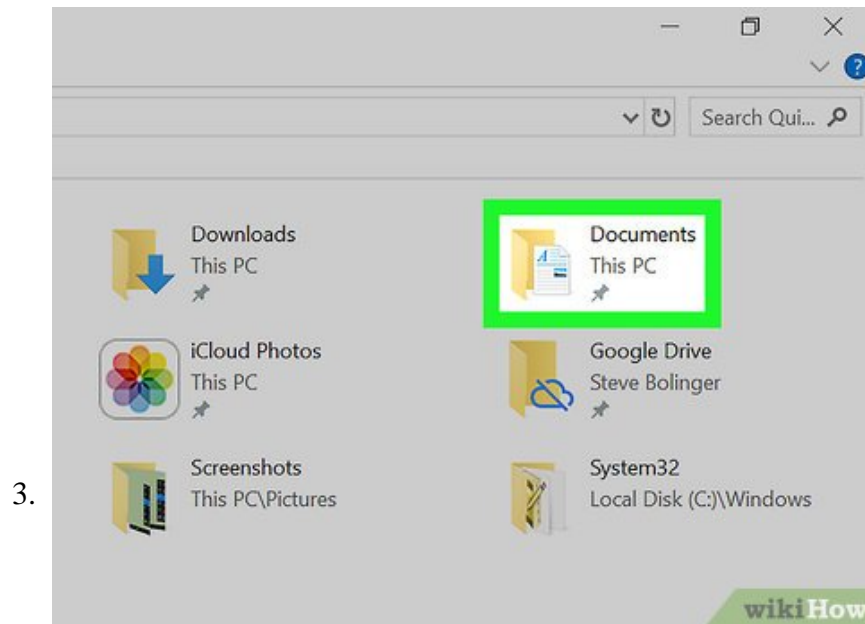
Using WinRAR for Windows



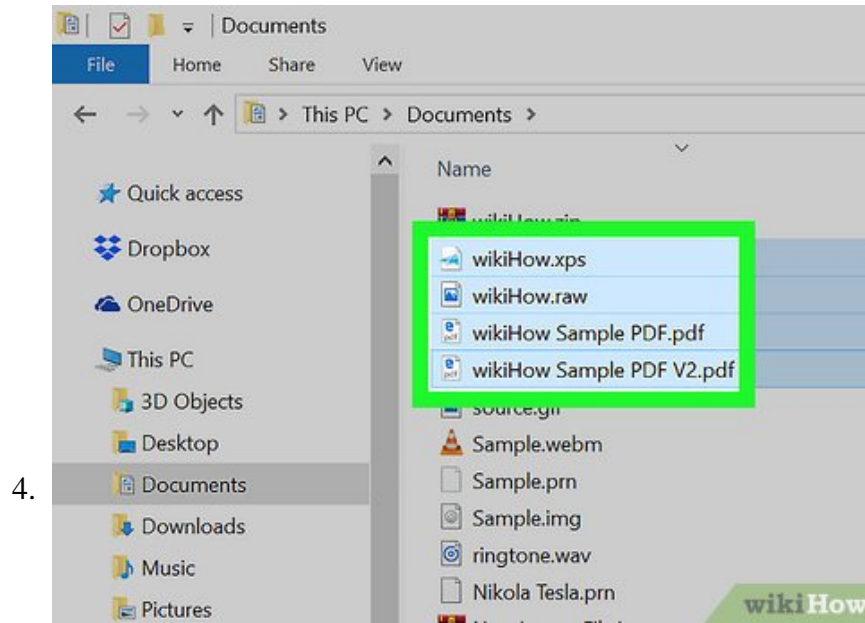
Install WinRAR on your PC. If you don't already have this free archive tool, see Use WinRAR to learn how to get it.



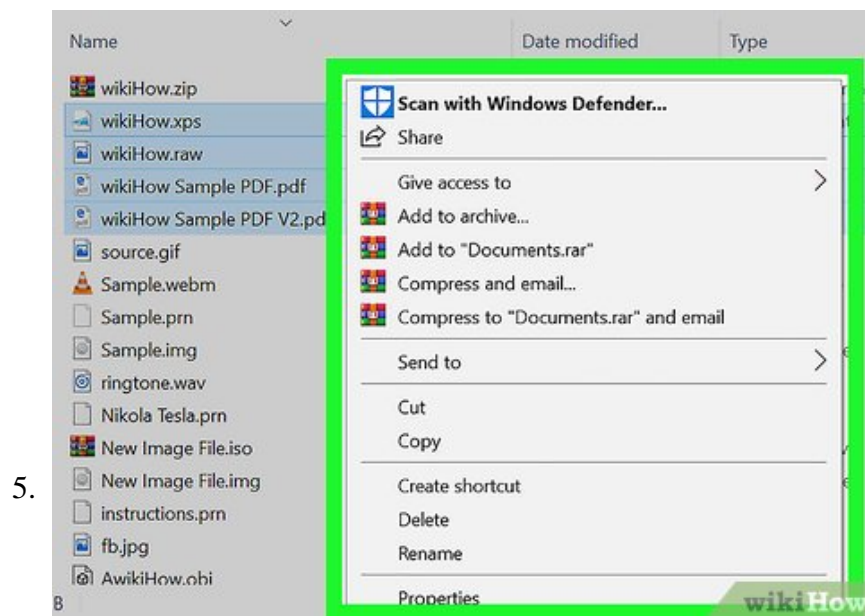
Press **Win + E**. This opens the File Explorer.



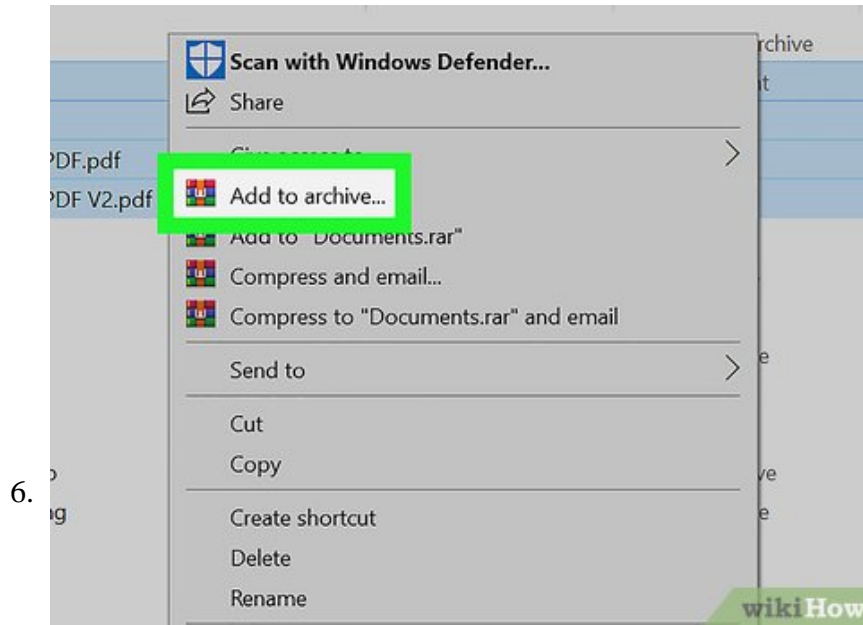
Browse to the folder with the files you want to zip.



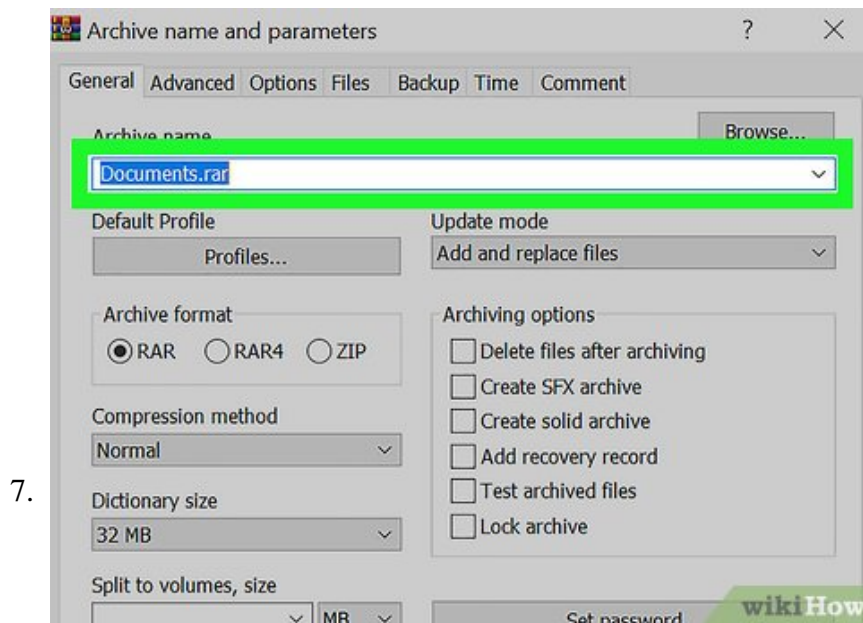
Select the file(s) and/or folder(s) you want to zip. To select more than one file and/or folder at a time, hold Ctrl as you click each file or folder name.



Right-click the highlighted file(s). A context menu will expand.

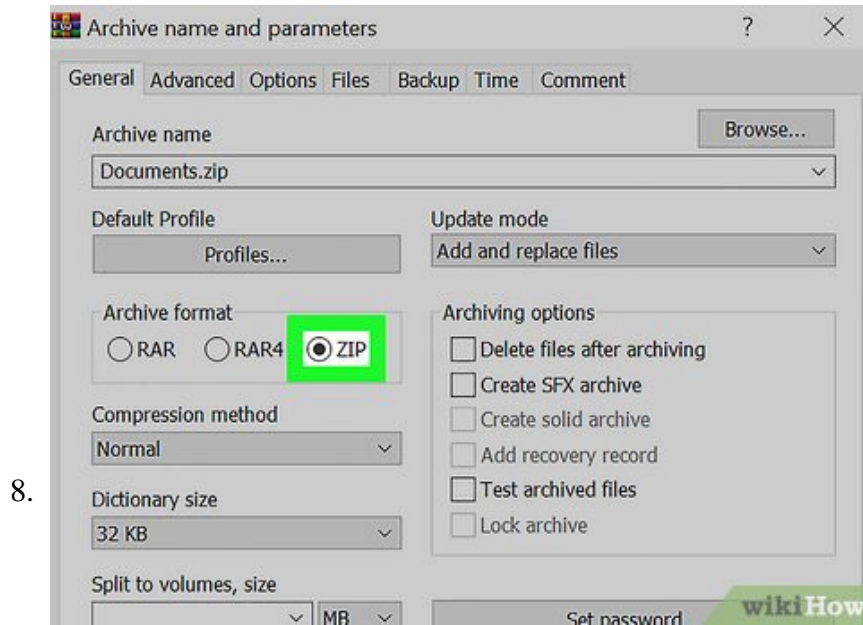


Click **Add to archive...**. This opens a WinRAR window called 'Archive name and parameters.'

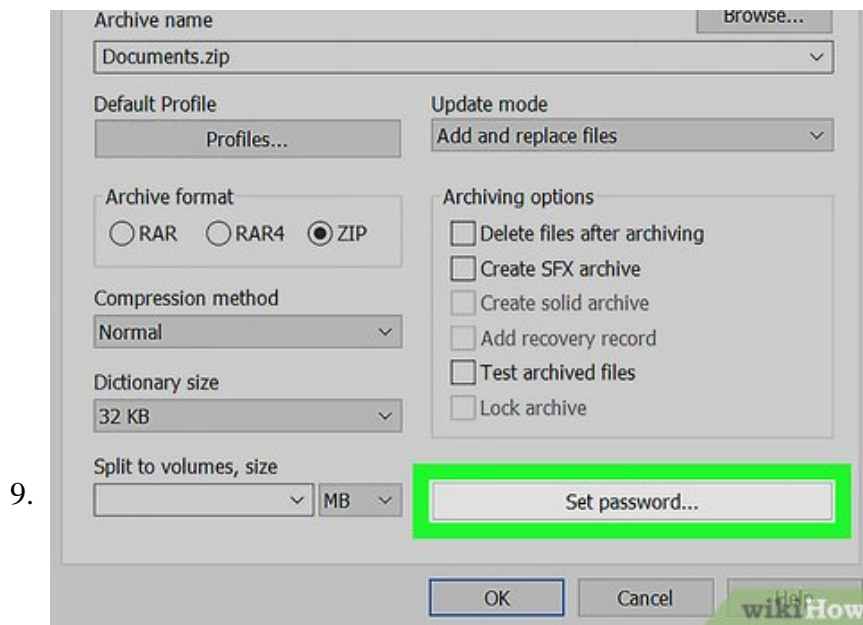


Name the file. You can type a different file name by erasing the default under "Archive name."

1. Leave ".zip" at the end of the file name to show that it's a zip file. For example, *archive.zip*.

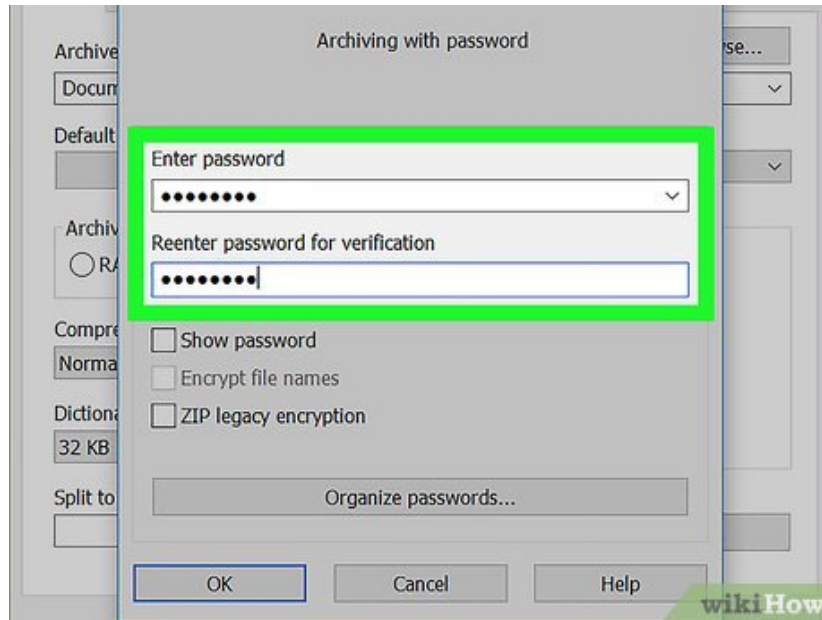


Select **ZIP** under 'Archive format.'



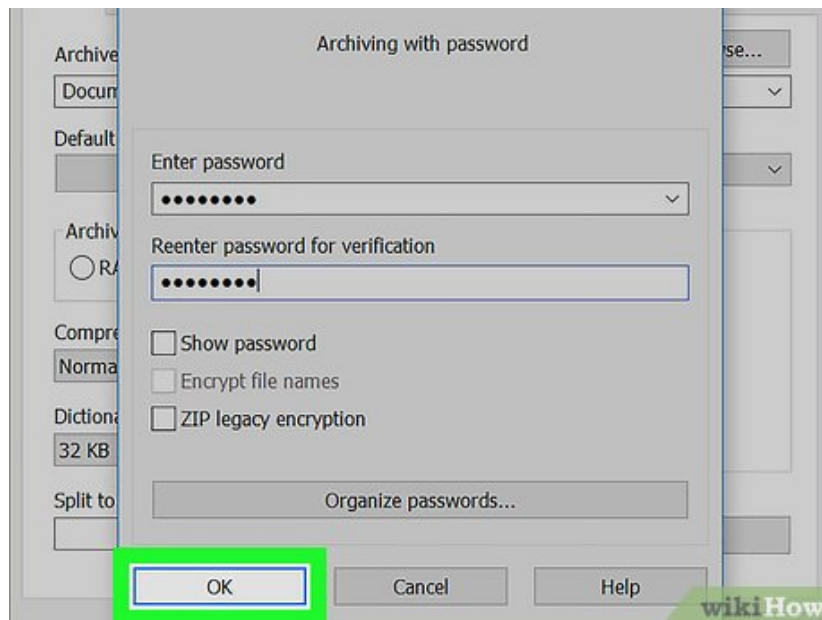
Click **Set password...**. It's at the bottom-right corner of the window. A password entry window will appear.

10.



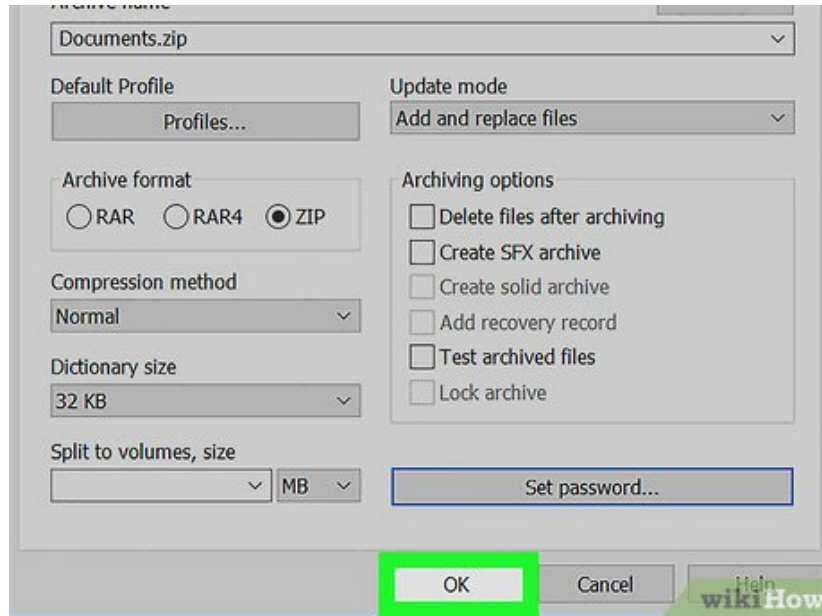
Enter and confirm a password. You must type the password exactly the same into both blanks.

11.



Click **OK**. It's at the bottom-left corner of the password window.

12.

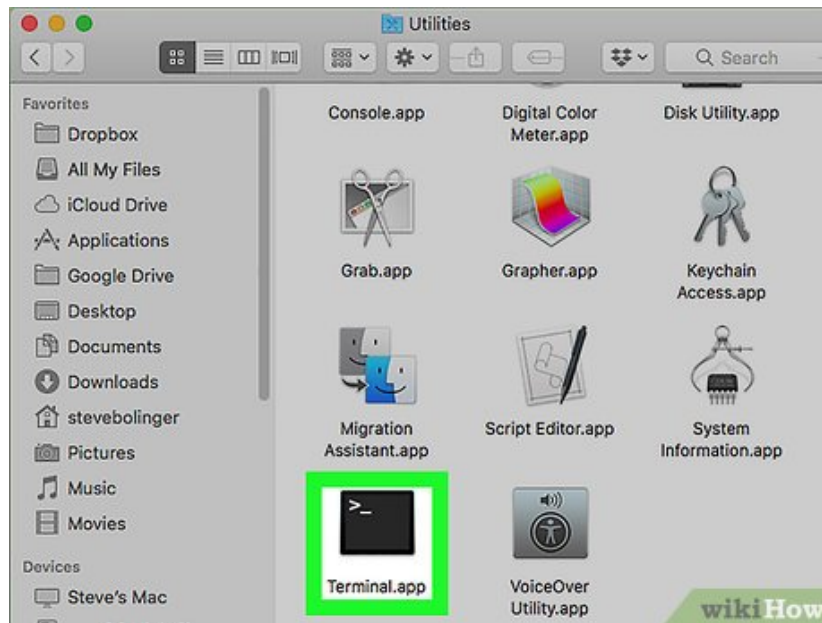


Click **OK**. It's at the bottom-center part of the archive window. This creates the zip file and protects it with the password you entered.

Method 2 of 2:

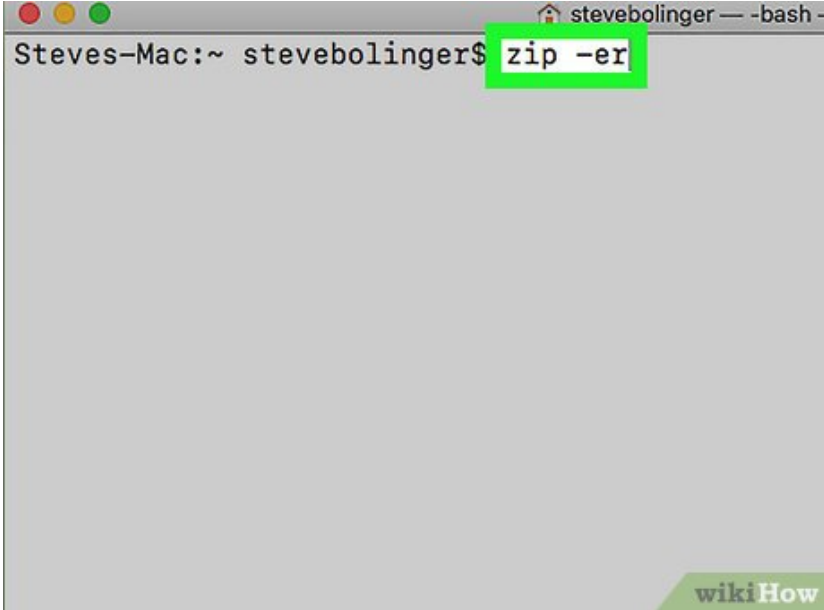
Using Zip for macOS

1.



Open a Terminal window on your Mac. You'll find **Terminal** in the **Applications** folder in a sub-folder called **Utilities**.

2.



```
Steve's-Mac:~ stevebolinger$ zip -er
```

The image shows a terminal window with a grey background. The title bar at the top reads 'stevebolinger — -bash —'. The prompt 'Steve's-Mac:~ stevebolinger\$' is followed by the command 'zip -er', which is highlighted with a green box. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the terminal window.

Type `zip -er` at the command line and press `Return`. This tells your Mac to create an encrypted zip file.

3.



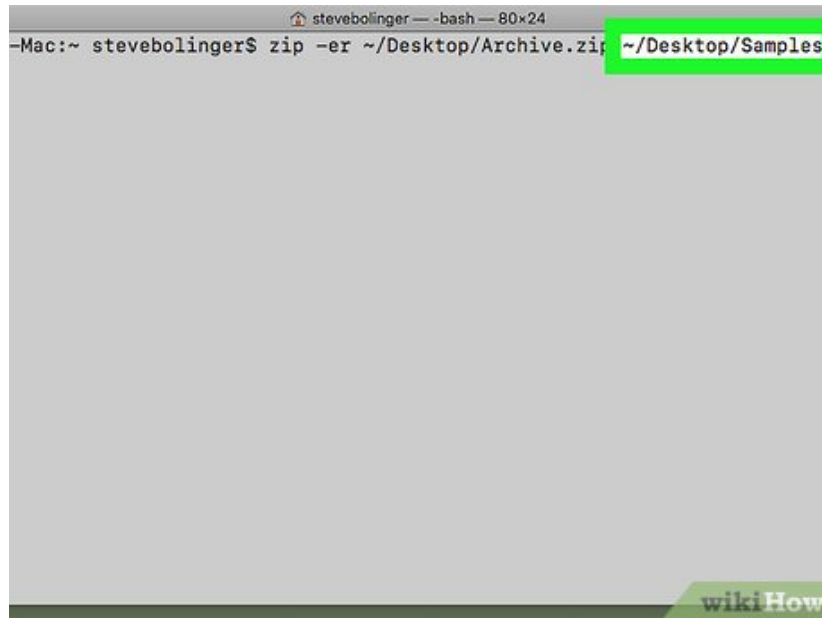
```
Steve's-Mac:~ stevebolinger$ zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.zip
```

The image shows a terminal window with a grey background. The title bar at the top reads 'stevebolinger — -bash — 80x24'. The prompt 'Steve's-Mac:~ stevebolinger\$' is followed by the command 'zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.zip', which is highlighted with a green box. A 'wikiHow' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the terminal window.

Type the name and location of the zip file you want to create, followed by a space. Make sure to end the new file name with '.zip' to show it's a zip file.

1. For example, if you want to create a zip file called *Archive.zip* on your desktop, type `~/Desktop/Archive.zip` and then type a space.

4.



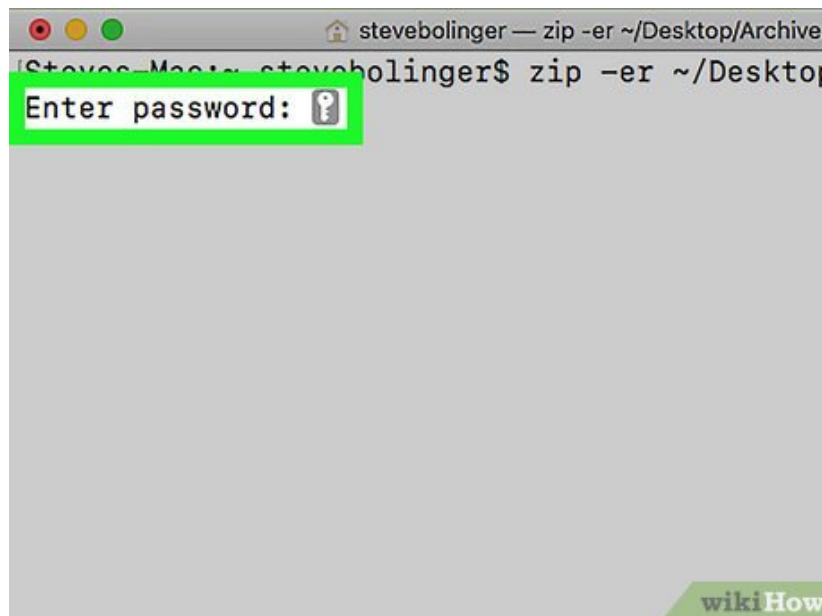
```
stevebolinger — -bash — 80x24
-Mac:~ stevebolinger$ zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.zip ~/Desktop/Samples
```

A terminal window with a grey background. The title bar shows 'stevebolinger — -bash — 80x24'. The command prompt is '-Mac:~ stevebolinger\$'. The command 'zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.zip ~/Desktop/Samples' is entered. The path '~/Desktop/Samples' is highlighted in green. A 'wikiHow' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Type the name of the folder you want to zip and press ? Return . Type this right after the space after the path to the new zip file. You'll then be prompted to enter a password.

1. For example, if you want to zip a folder on your desktop called *Samples*, type `~/Desktop/Samples` after the space and press ? Return .
2. The entire command would look like this `~/Desktop/Archive.zip ~/Desktop/Samples .`

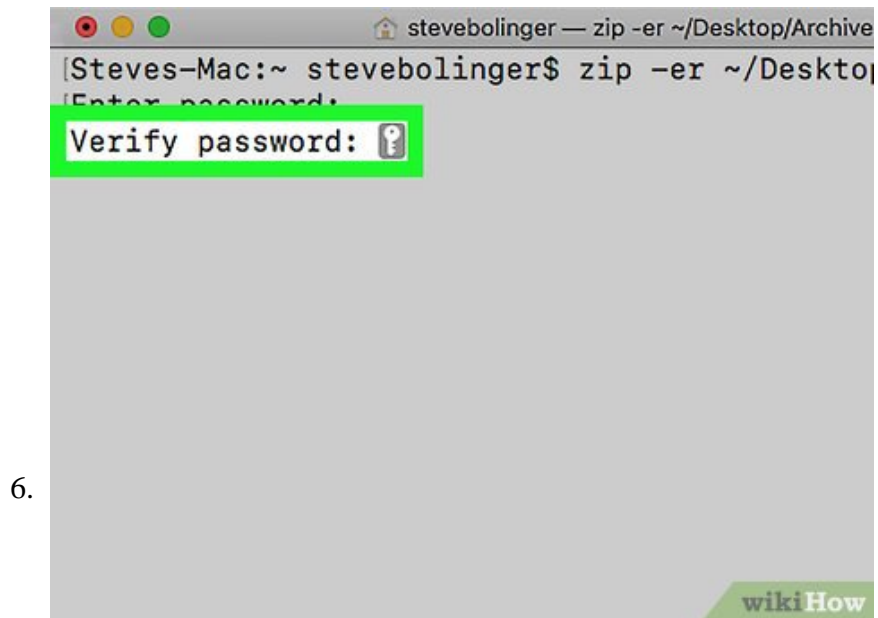
5.



```
stevebolinger — zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.:
(Steve-Mac:~ stevebolinger$ zip -er ~/Desktop
Enter password: ?
```

A terminal window with a grey background. The title bar shows 'stevebolinger — zip -er ~/Desktop/Archive.:'. The command prompt is '(Steve-Mac:~ stevebolinger\$'. The command 'zip -er ~/Desktop' is entered. The prompt 'Enter password: ?' is highlighted in green. A 'wikiHow' logo is in the bottom right corner.

Type a password and press ? Return . This is the password you'll need to enter when unzipping the archive. A confirmation message will appear.



Re-enter the password and press ? Return. This compresses the folder and files into a password-protected zip file.

You finished reading the article "**How to Protect a Zip File with a Password on PC or Mac**" 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.