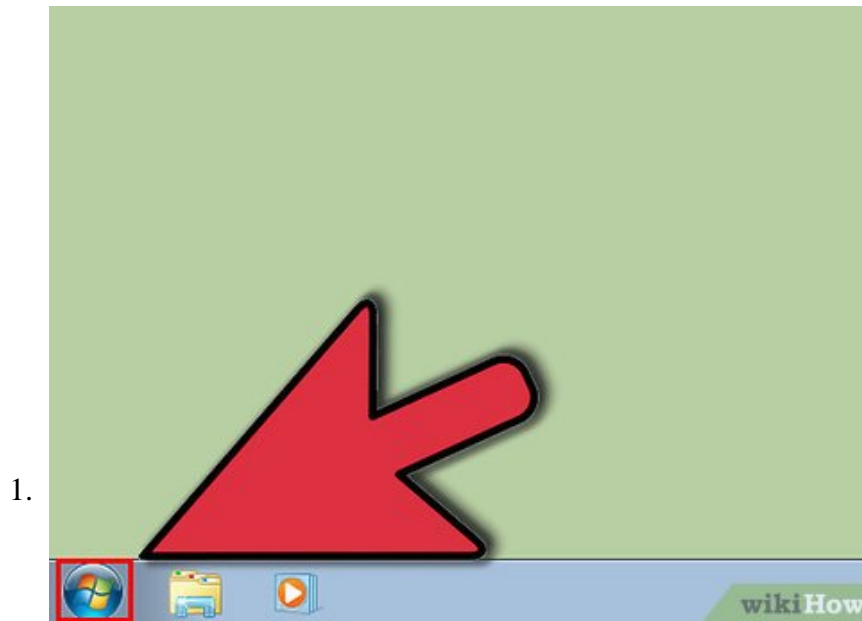


How to Show Hidden Files in Windows 7

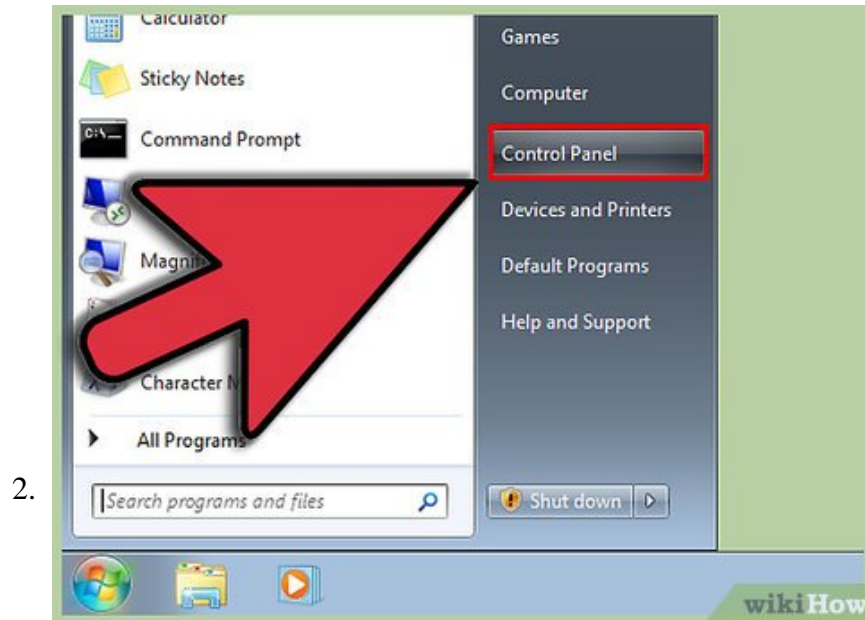
Windows 7 hides important folders and files in order to keep users from modifying or deleting their files and subsequently damaging their systems. Windows 7 does not show hidden files by default. For example, the pagefile.sys file is a...

Method 1 of 4:

Showing Hidden Files in Windows 7 Using Folder Options



Click on the Windows 7 Start button.

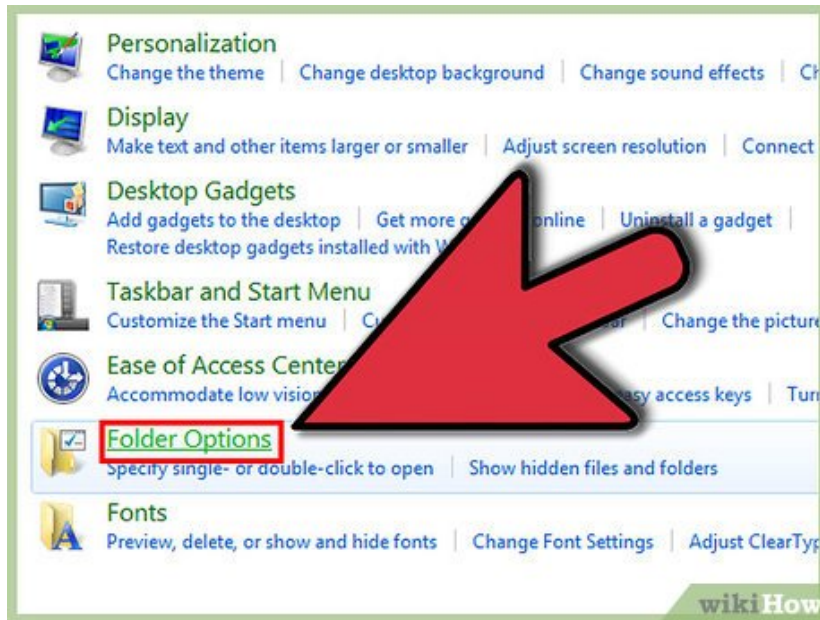


Click on Control Panel. You can also click the Start button and then type 'folder options' in the search box. Select 'Folder Options' in Control Panel from the resulting list.



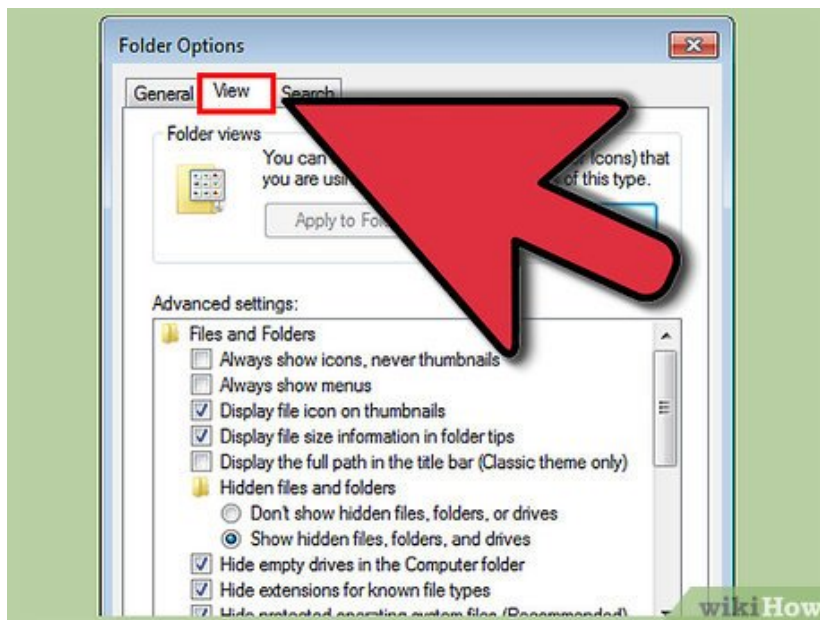
Click on 'Appearance and Personalization.'

4.



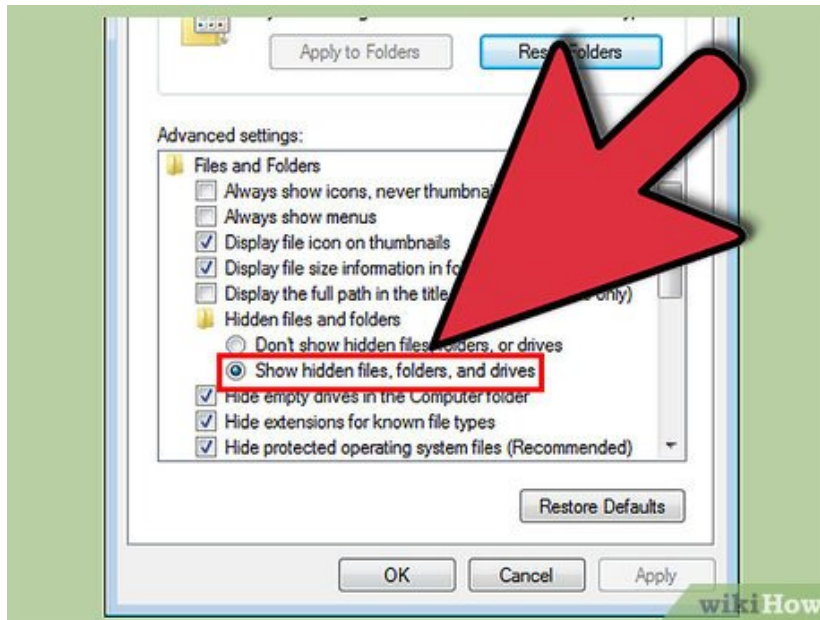
Click 'Folder Options.'

5.



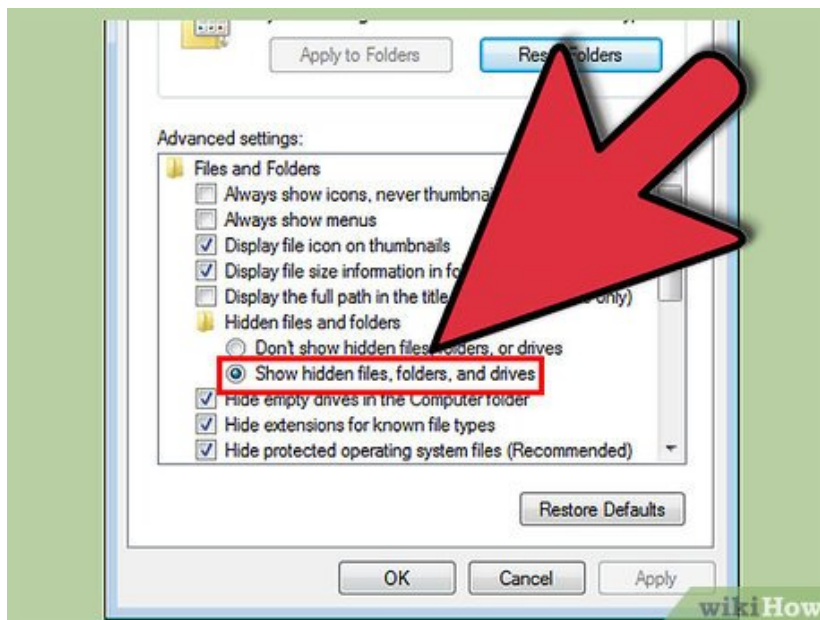
Click on the View tab in the Folder Options window.

6.



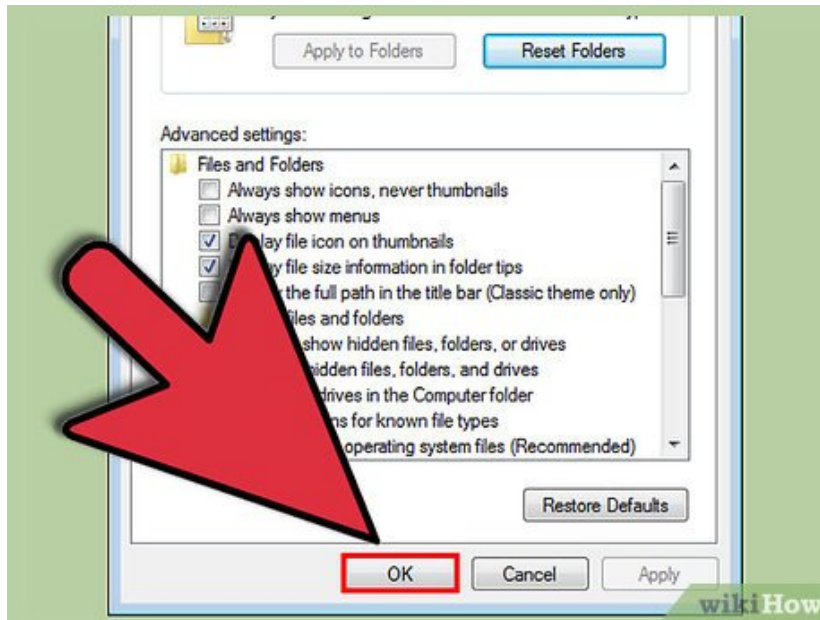
Click 'Show hidden files, folders, and drives' in 'Advanced settings' and click 'OK.'

7.



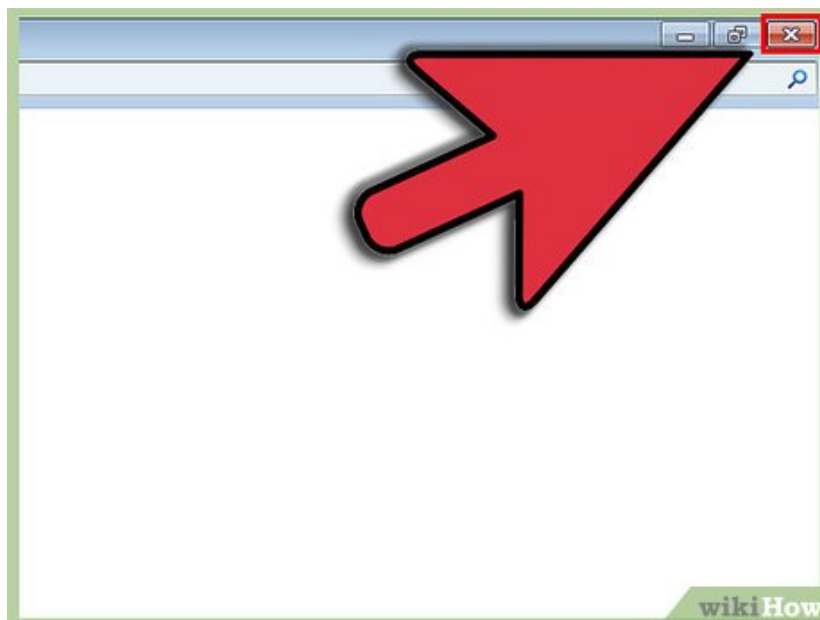
Choose the 'Show hidden files, folders, and drives' radio button in the 'Hidden files and folders' category.

8.



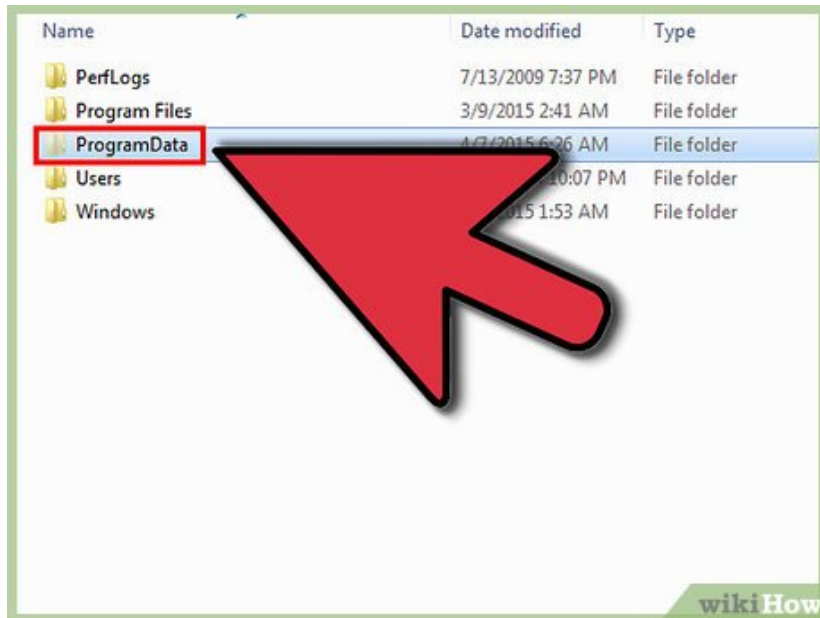
Click 'OK' at the bottom of the Folder Options window.

9.



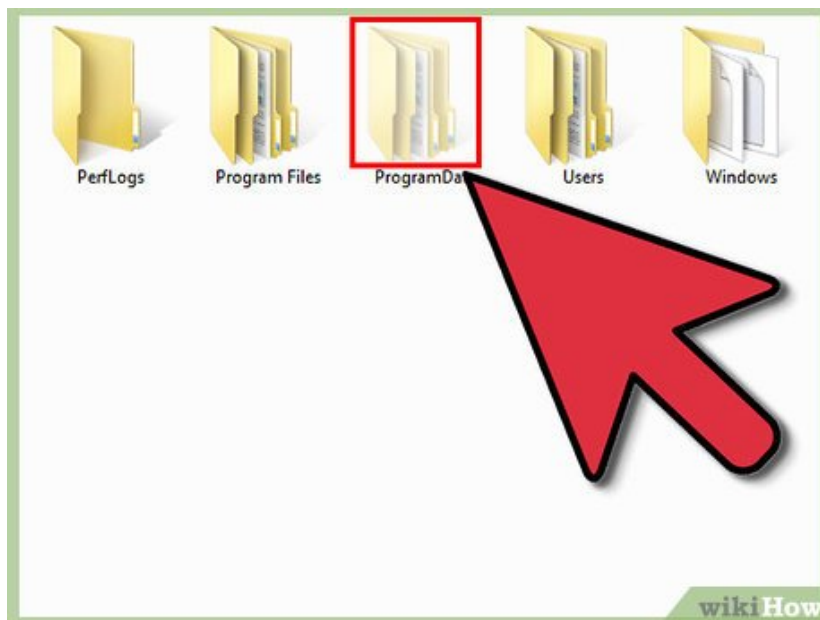
Close the Control Panel window. You should now be able to view all files and folders as well as drives hidden in Windows 7.

10.



Test this by navigating to the C: drive. Look for a program named 'ProgramData.' If you can see this, you are now able to view hidden files and folders.

11.

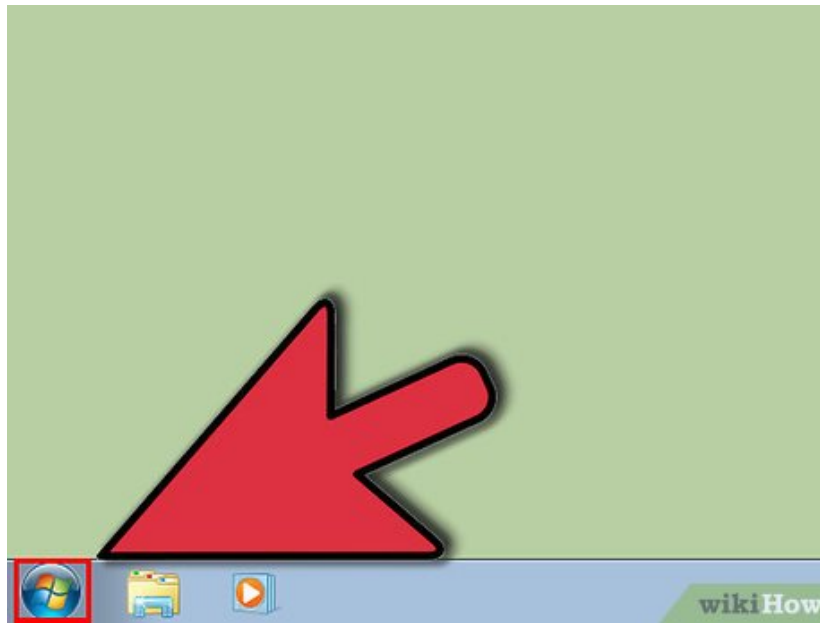


Notice that the icons for hidden files and folders are grayed out. This is how you can differentiate between hidden and unhidden files.

Method 2 of 4:

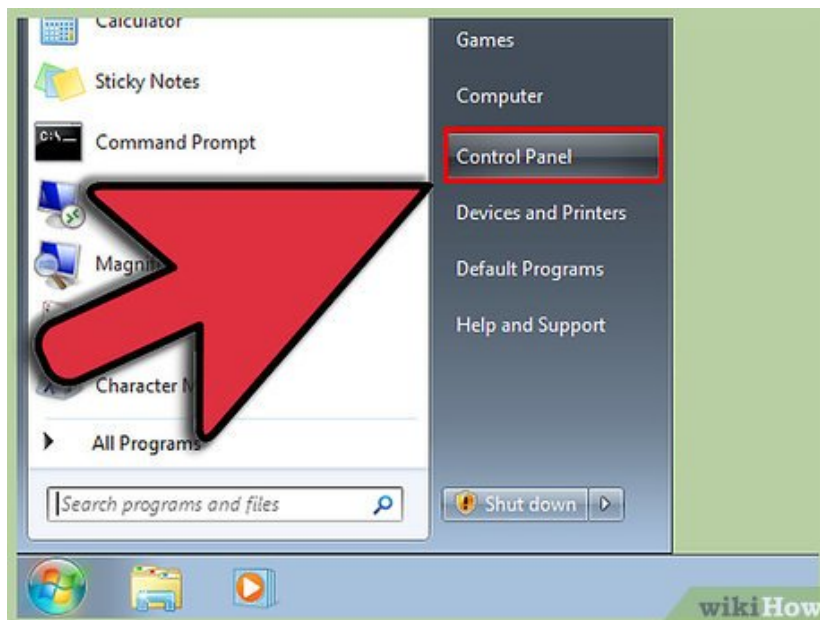
Showing Protected Operating System Files

1.



Click on the Windows 7 Start button.

2.



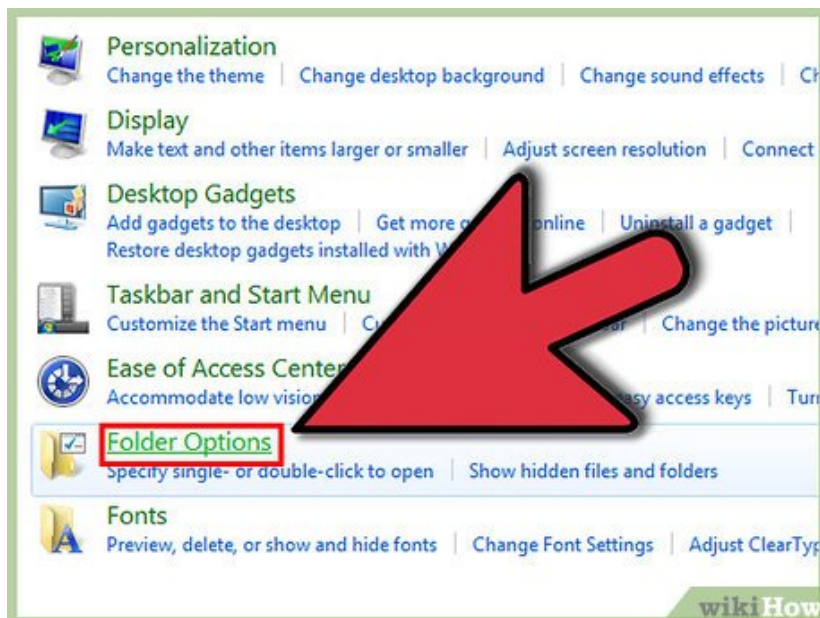
Click on Control Panel.

3.



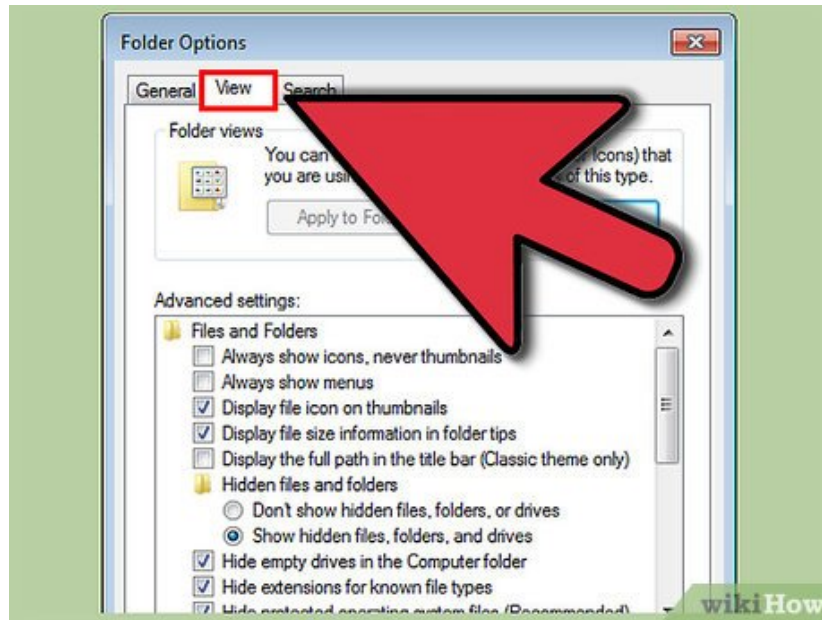
Click on 'Appearance and Personalization.'

4.



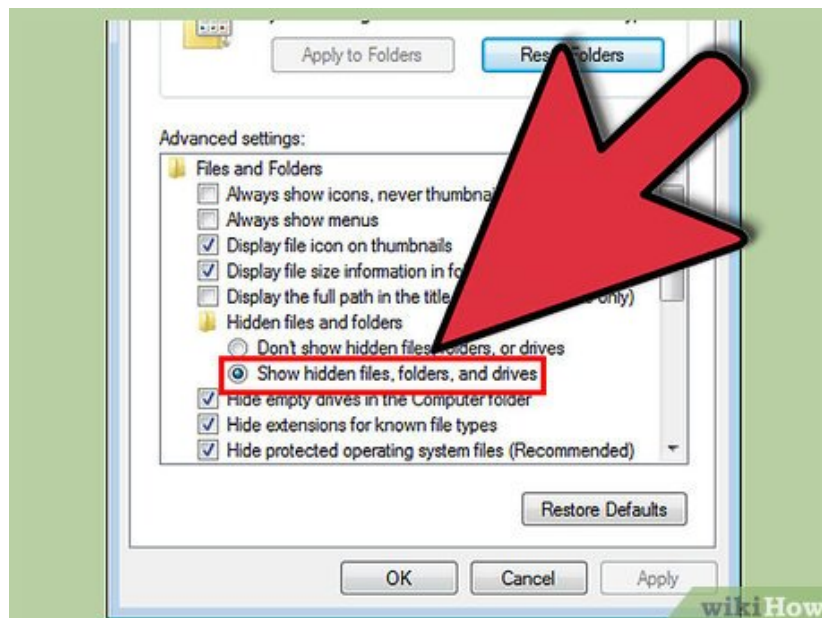
Click 'Folder Options.'

5.



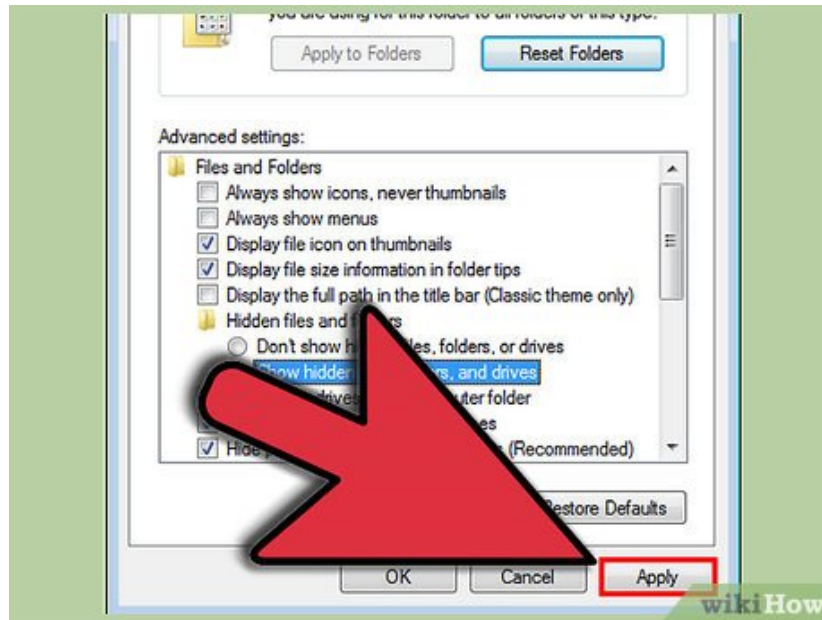
Click 'View.'

6.



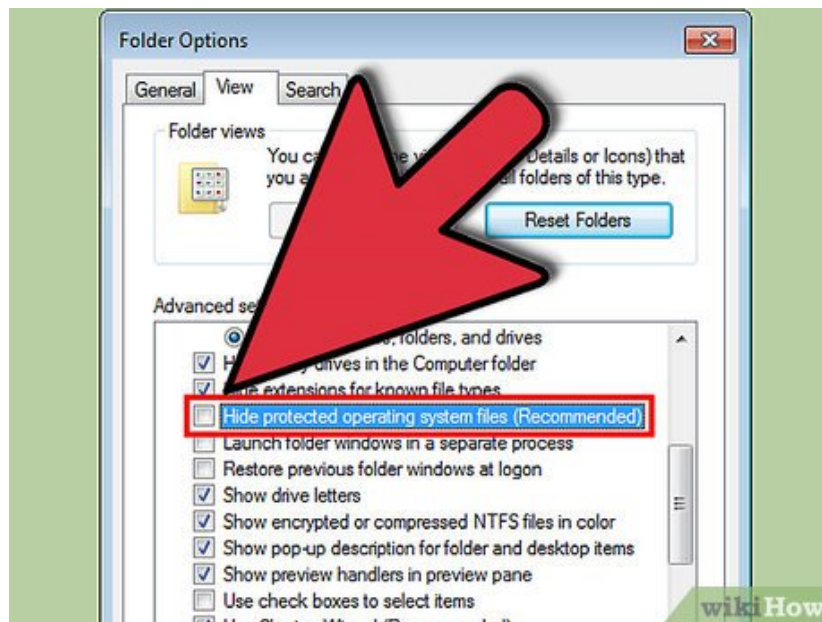
Click 'Show hidden files, folders, and drives' in 'Advanced settings' and click 'OK.'

7.

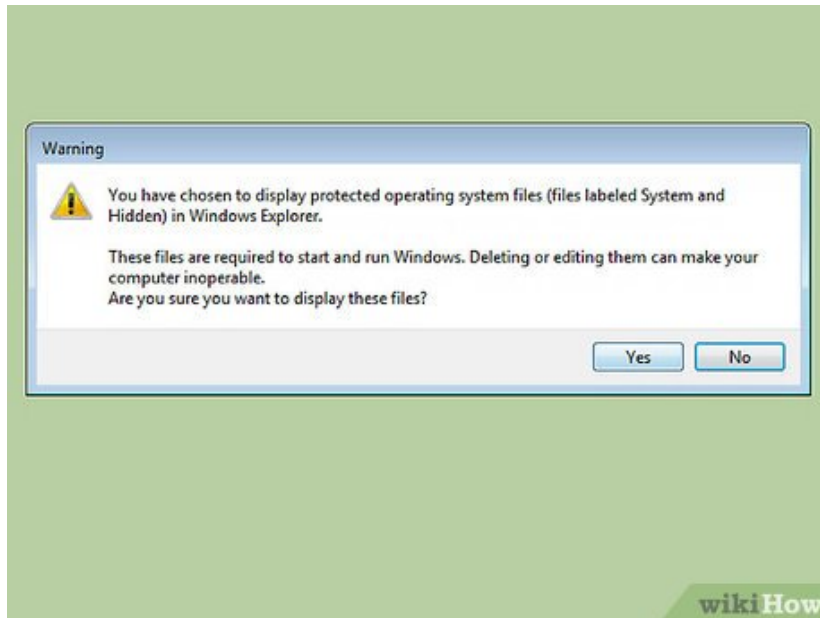


Click 'Apply.'

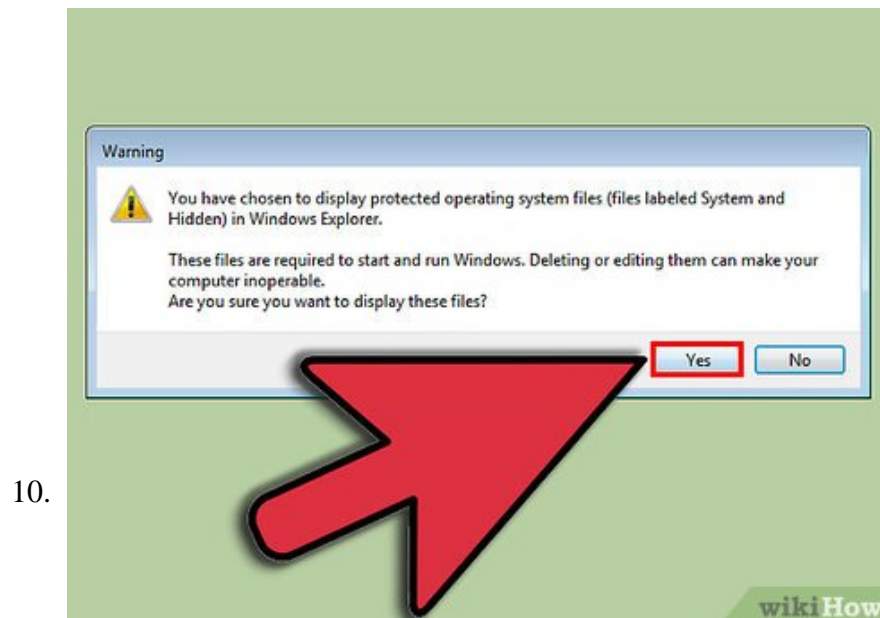
8.



Uncheck the 'Hide protected operating system files' box.

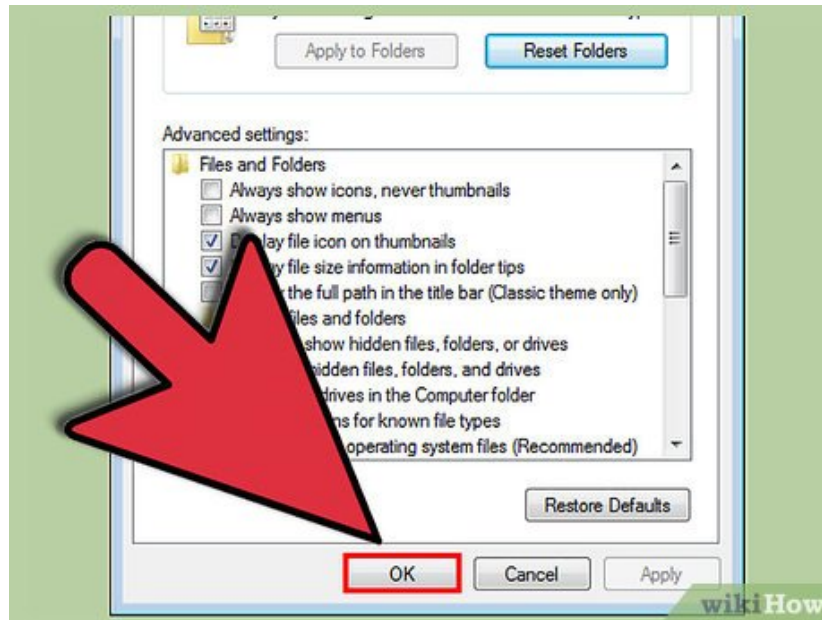


See a dialog box asking if you are sure that you want to do this.



Click 'Yes.'

11.

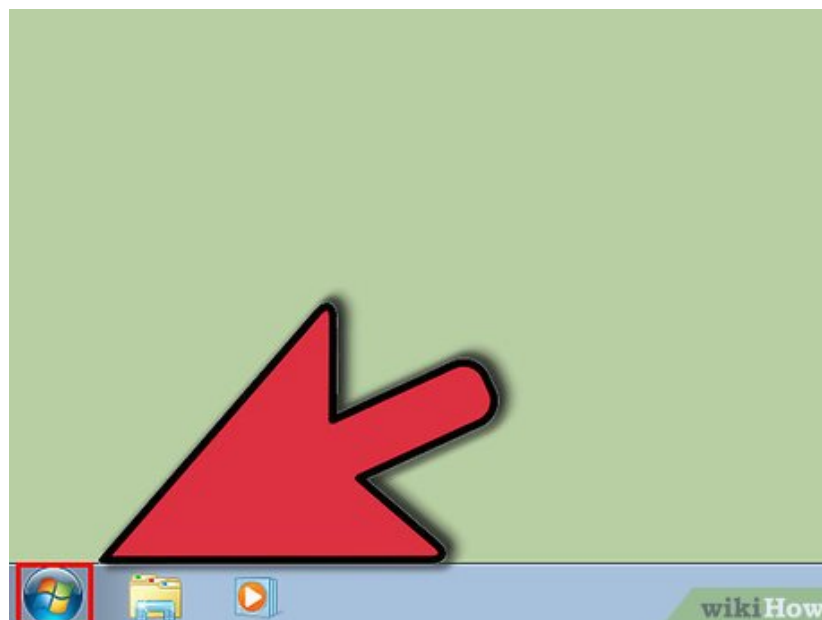


Click 'OK.'

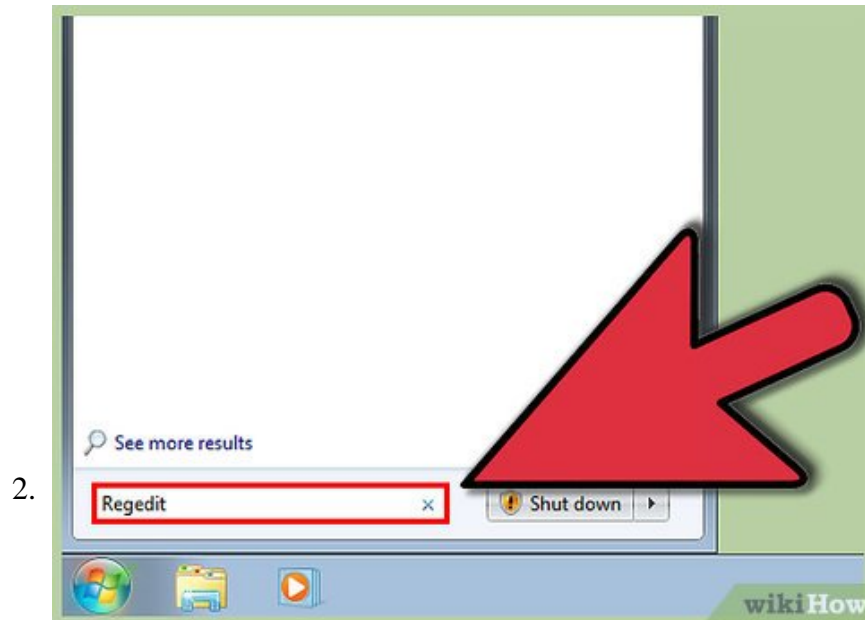
Method 3 of 4:

Showing Hidden Files using the Registry Editor

1.

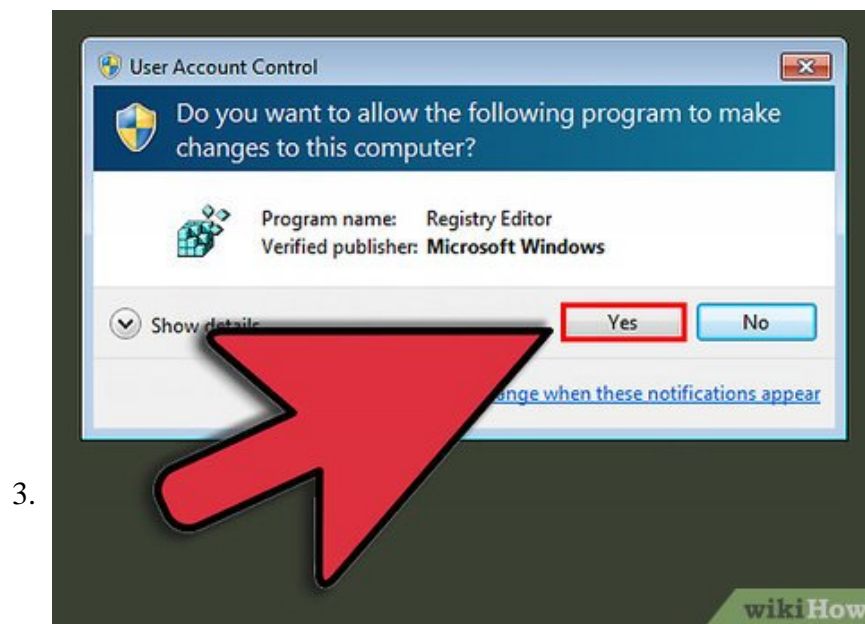


Click the Start button.



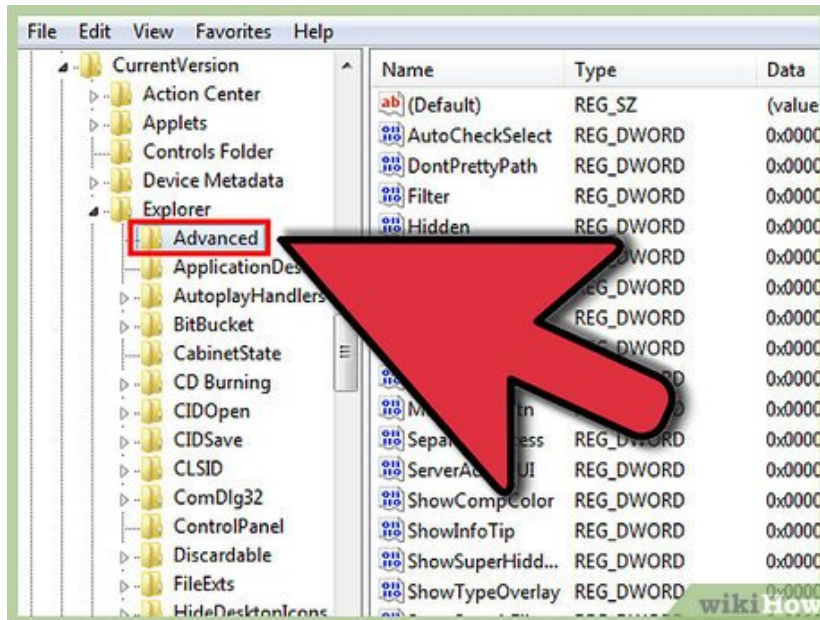
Type 'regedit' in the search box and press enter.

1. You must be logged in as an administrator to be able to do these steps.



Click 'Yes' if prompted to confirm you are an administrator.

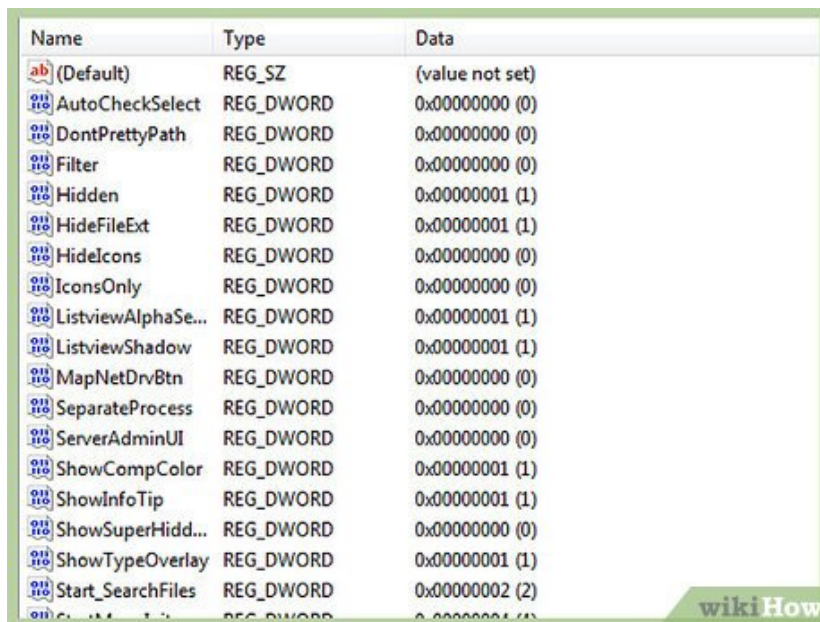
4.



Find this key in regedit:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Advanced.

5.

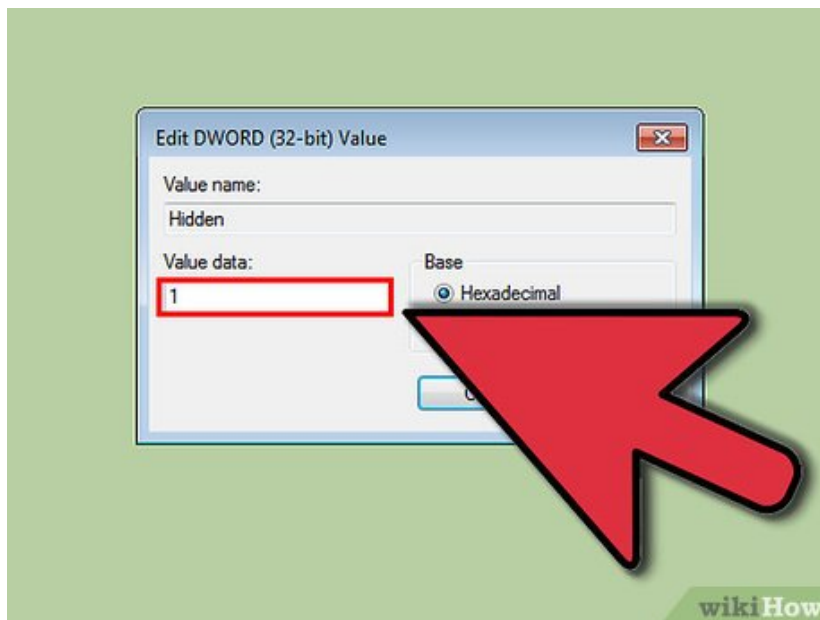


Go to the right side of the Advanced window, where the values can be seen.

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
AutoCheckSelect	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DontPrettyPath	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
Filter	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
Hidden	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideFileExt	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideIcons	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
IconsOnly	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ListviewAlphaSe...	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ListviewShadow	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
MapNetDrvBtn	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
SeparateProcess	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ServerAdminUI	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowCompColor	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowInfoTip	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowSuperHidd...	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowTypeOverlay	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Start_SearchFiles	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)

6.

Find the value 'Hidden.'



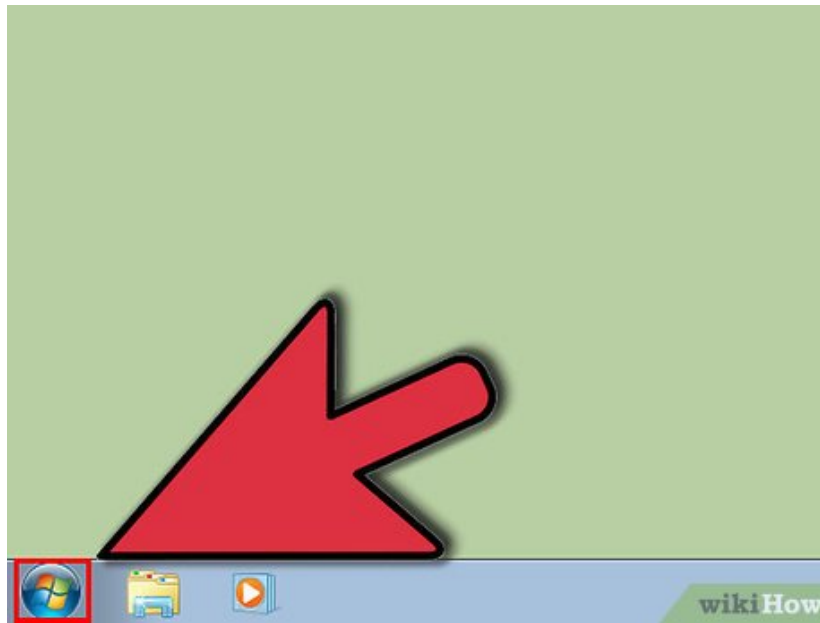
7.

Right click it and change it to 1.

Method 4 of 4:

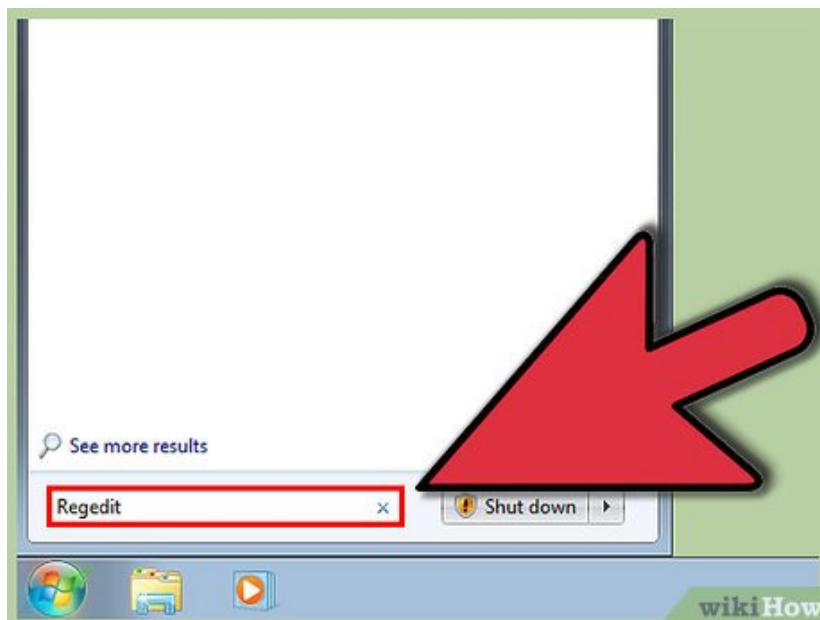
Showing Protected Operating System Files Using Registry Editor

1.

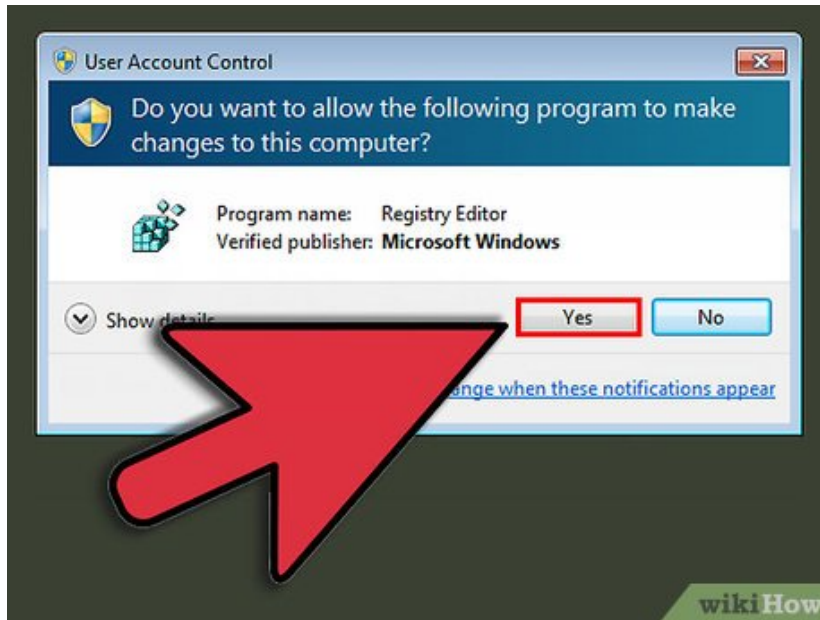


Click the Start button.

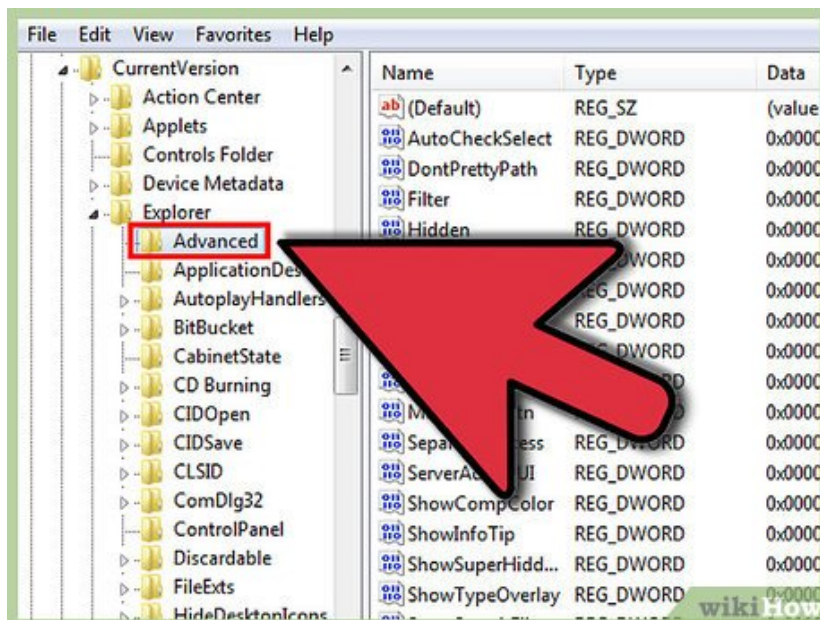
2.



Type 'regedit' in the search box and press enter.



Click 'Yes' if prompted to confirm you are an administrator.



Find this key In regedit:

HKEY_CURRENT_USERSoftwareMicrosoftWindowsCurrentVersionExplorerAdvanced.

5.

Name	Type	Data
(Default)	REG_SZ	(value not set)
AutoCheckSelect	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
DontPrettyPath	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
Filter	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
Hidden	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideFileExt	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideIcons	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
IconsOnly	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ListviewAlphaSe...	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ListviewShadow	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
MapNetDrvBtn	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
SeparateProcess	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ServerAdminUI	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowCompColor	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowInfoTip	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowSuperHidd...	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowTypeOverlay	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Start_SearchFiles	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)

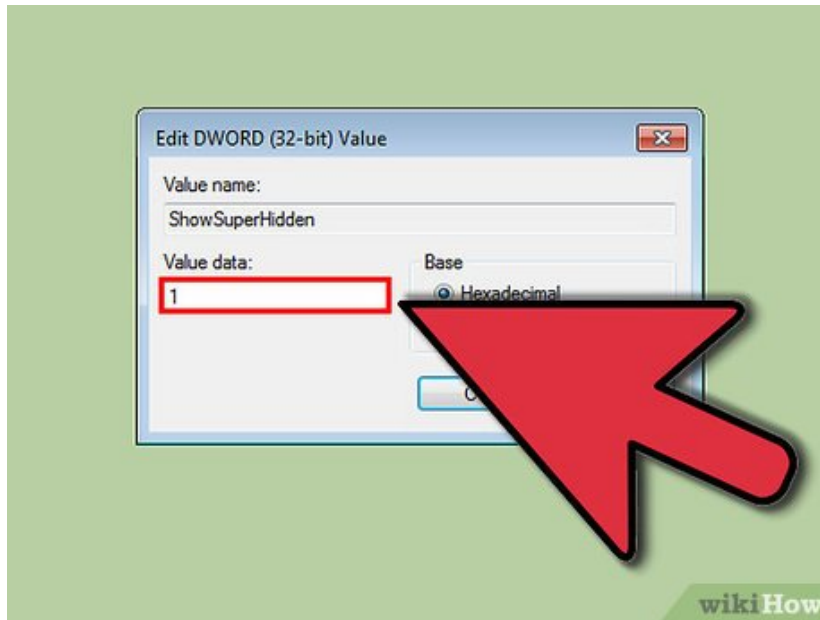
Go to the right side of the Advanced window, where the values are seen.

6.

Name	Type	Data
Hidden	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideFileExt	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
HideIcons	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
IconsOnly	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ListviewAlphaSelect	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ListviewShadow	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
MapNetDrvBtn	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
SeparateProcess	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ServerAdminUI	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowCompColor	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowInfoTip	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
ShowSuperHidden	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
ShowTypeOverlay	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
Start_SearchFile	REG_DWORD	0x00000002 (2)
StartMenuInit	REG_DWORD	0x00000004 (4)
SuperHidden	REG_DWORD	0x00000000 (0)
TaskbarAnimat	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)
WebView	REG_DWORD	0x00000001 (1)

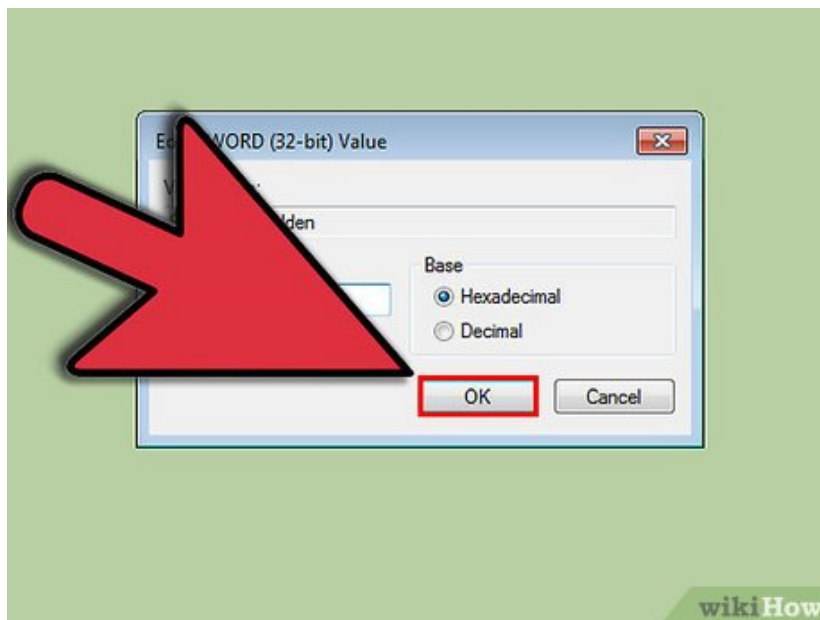
Right click on 'Super Hidden ' and click on Modify.

7.



Type 1.

8.



Click 'OK.'

You finished reading the article "**How to Show Hidden Files in Windows 7**" 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.