

# How to turn off file compression in Windows 10

Have you ever noticed two blue arrows on your Windows 10 files and folders? These two arrows indicate that Windows 10 is compressing those files and folders to reduce their overall size on your hard drive.

Windows 10 automatically compresses files when your hard drive starts to fill up, which is why you'll suddenly notice these two blue arrows appear.

However, you can stop automatically compressing files in Windows 10. Here's how.

## How to turn off Windows 10 file compression in File Explorer

The easiest way to turn off automatic file compression in Windows 10 is through File Explorer. Compression can be applied to files, folders, or entire drives. When you apply or remove compression from a folder or drive, you can make changes in entire folders, compressing (or decompressing) every file in each sub-folder.

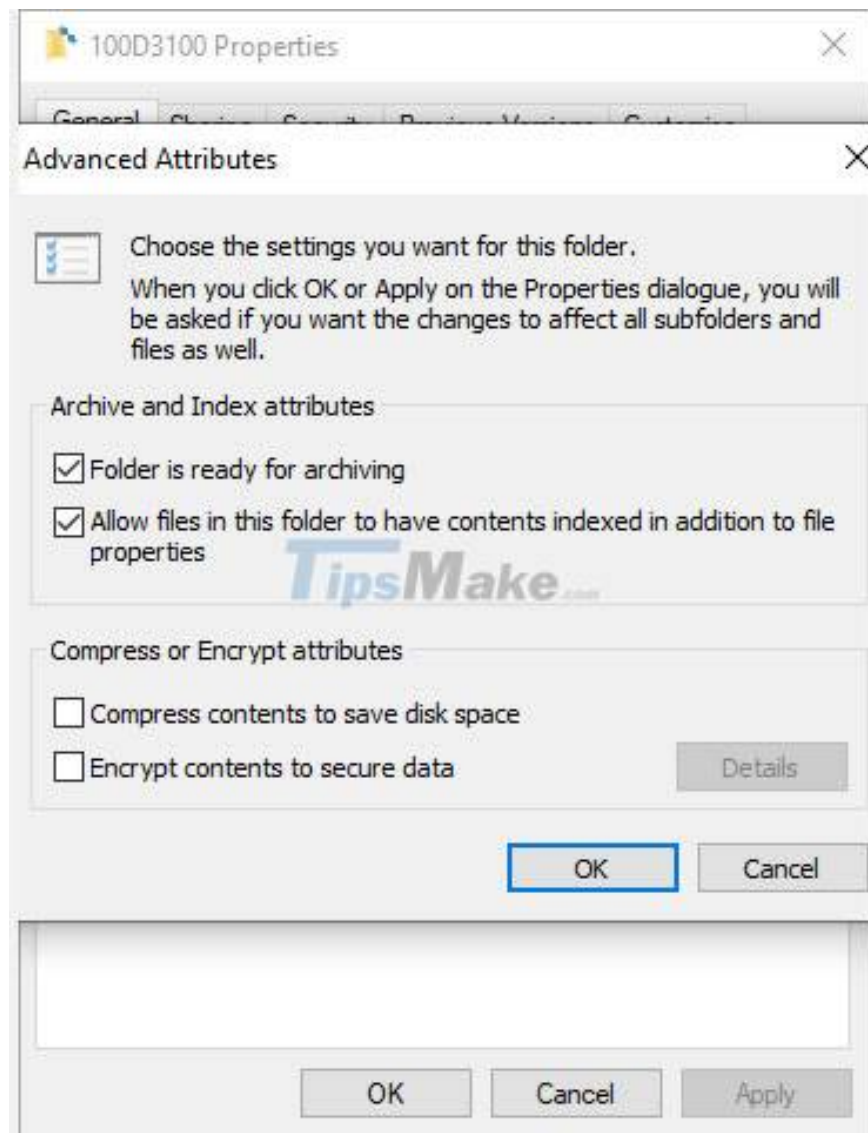
Disabling file compression in Windows 10 is a quick process. First, go to the folder or drive where you want to stop autocompressing. Later:

Step 1. Right-click on the folder and choose **Properties**.

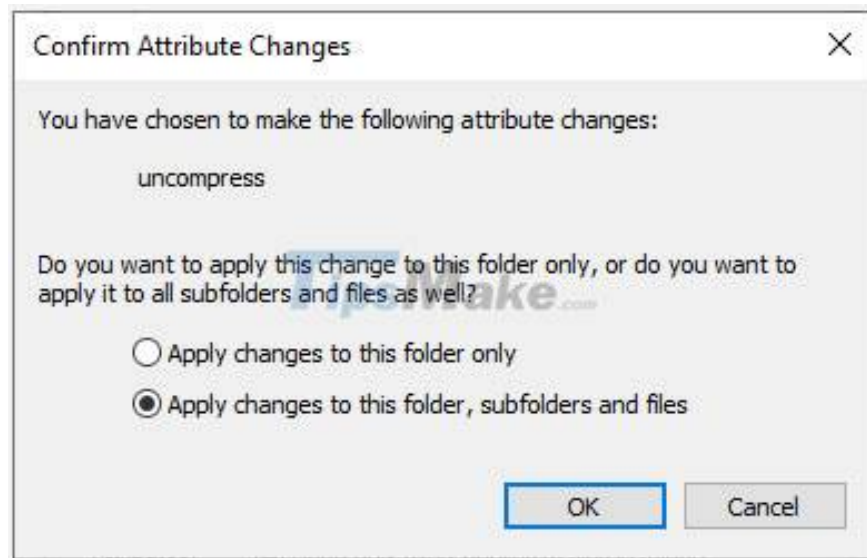
Step 2. On the **General** tab , choose **Advanced** to open **Advanced Attributes** .

Step 3. In the **Compress or Encrypt attributes** , uncheck **Compress contents to save disk space** .

Step 4. Click **OK** , then click **Apply** button .



When the **Confirm Attribute Changes** window appears, you can decide to only apply file compression **changes to this** directory ( **Apply changes to this folder only** ) or to folders, subdirectories and other files ( **Apply changes to this). folder, subfolders, and files** ). The second option is useful when you want to stop Windows 10 from automatically compressing an entire drive or folder.



## How to re-enable the Windows 10 file compression feature

Re-enabling file compression is as easy as disabling it. Return to the steps above, but check the box **Compress contents** to save drive space. You will also see the same **Confirm Attribute Changes** window .

## Compress files on Windows 10 with Command Prompt

You can also compress and decompress Windows 10 files and folders using Command Prompt and **compact** command .

First, go to the folder you want to compress, then press **Shift + Ctrl + Right-click** and select **Open command window here** .

Now, you have several different commands for compressing files. To compress a file, use the following command:

```
compact /c filename
```

To compress all the files in the directory, use the following command:

```
compact /c *
```

Finally, if you want to compress every file in this directory, along with any subdirectories, use this command:

```
compact /c /s *
```

If you want to use the Command Prompt to extract your files, the commands will be similar. The following commands are used to unzip a file, all files in a directory, all files in this directory and its subfolders:

```
compact /u filename compact /u * compact /u /s *
```

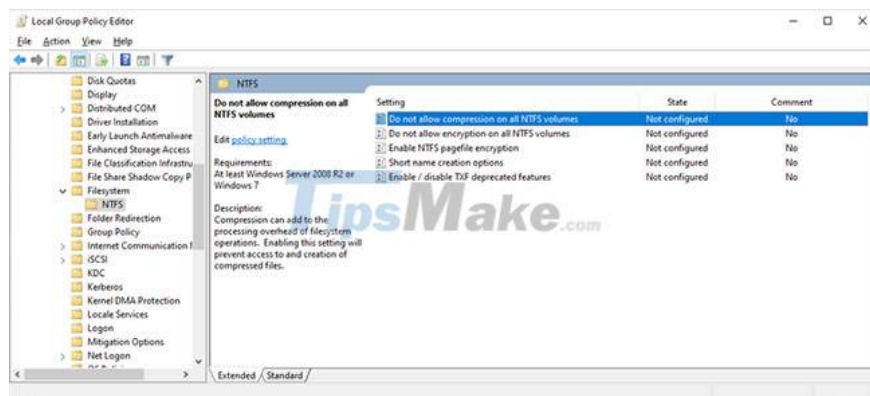
You can find the complete syntax list on the Microsoft Compact page or use the **compact / command ?** to see the list.

## Turn off file compression using Group Policy

Let's say you want to take the task of stopping the file compression one step further. That is to ensure Windows 10 will never compress your files without permission again.

If you want that, you can turn off NTFS file compression using the Group Policy Editor. Group Policy is a Windows function that applies a configuration option to the entire system. You make changes to policies using the Group Policy Editor.

Group Policy Editor is not available by default for Windows 10 Home users. However, Windows 10 Home users can enable the Group Policy Editor option or use a third-party policy editor.



Follow these steps to disable NTFS file compression using Group Policy Editor:

Step 1. Press **Win + R** to open the **Run** dialog box , then type **msc** and press **Enter** .

Step 2. When Group Policy Editor loads, go to **Computer Configuration> Administrative Templates> System> Filesystem> NTFS** .

Step 3. Open the **Do not allow compression on all NTFS volumes** policy to edit it.

Step 4. Select **Enabled** if you want to stop all file compression, then click **Apply** .

Step 5. Restart your computer for the changes to take effect.

To disable this function in the future, repeat the steps above, but instead, disable the policy (choose **Disable** ).

Hope you are succesful.

You finished reading the article "**How to turn off file compression in Windows 10**" 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.