

# Use CMD to delete large folders on Windows

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Large folders on the system are one of the perpetrators who "consume" quite a lot of system space. A lot of folders that you create, after deleting, will come back later. Maybe it's junk folders that you try to remove.

To delete these folders, you can use right-click the folder and select the **Delete** option or press **Shift + Delete**.

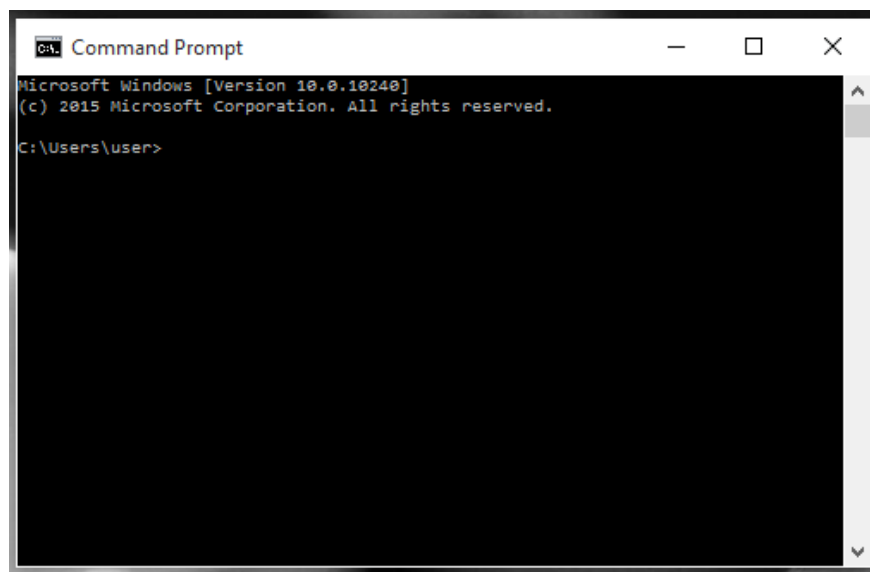
However, with folders containing large files, you can use the Command Prompt to "clean up" these files.

## 1. Clean up the files in the folder

### Step 1:

Open Command Prompt by entering **cmd** in the Search box on the Start Menu. From the search results list, click **Command Prompt**.

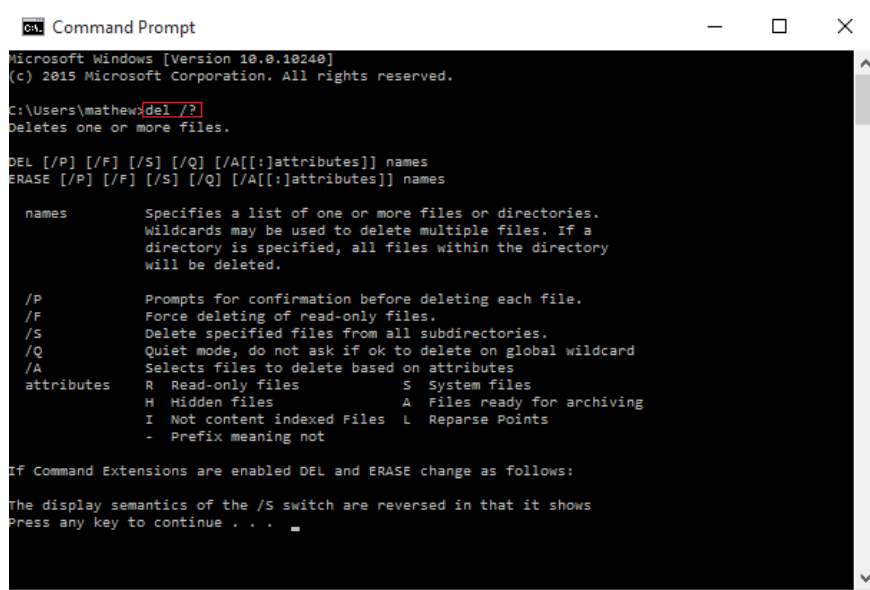
Or alternatively press the **Windows + X** key combination to open the Power User Menu. Here, click **Command Prompt** to open the Command Prompt window.



### Step 2:

On the Command Prompt window, enter the following command into:

`del /?`



```
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.10240]
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C:\Users\mathew>del /?
Deletes one or more files.

DEL [/P] [/F] [/S] [/Q] [/A[:attributes]] names
ERASE [/P] [/F] [/S] [/Q] [/A[:attributes]] names

names           Specifies a list of one or more files or directories.
                 Wildcards may be used to delete multiple files. If a
                 directory is specified, all files within the directory
                 will be deleted.

/P             Prompts for confirmation before deleting each file.
/F             Force deleting of read-only files.
/S             Delete specified files from all subdirectories.
/Q             Quiet mode, do not ask if ok to delete on global wildcard
/A            Selects files to delete based on attributes
attributes     R Read-only files           S System files
                H Hidden files             A Files ready for archiving
                I Not content indexed Files L Reparse Points
                - Prefix meaning not

If Command Extensions are enabled DEL and ERASE change as follows:

The display semantics of the /S switch are reversed in that it shows
Press any key to continue . . .
```

You can set the property next to the del command to / P or / F or / S, followed by the directory name.

Depending on whether you want to receive confirmation messages before deleting or forcing a folder to be deleted or deleting specific files in a folder. The explanation will be displayed on the Command Prompt window.

For example, using the del / P command hello, you will receive a confirmation message deleting all the files in the Hello folder.

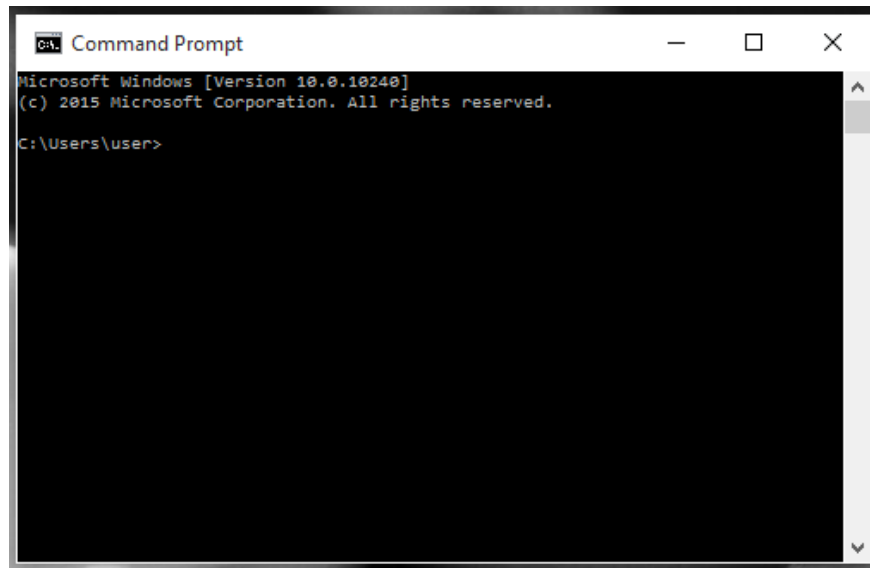
## 2. Delete all folders, including files and subdirectories

If you want to delete the entire folder, including all subdirectories and folders, files, follow the steps below:

### Step 1:

Open Command Prompt by entering **cmd** in the Search box on the Start Menu. From the search results list, click **Command Prompt**.

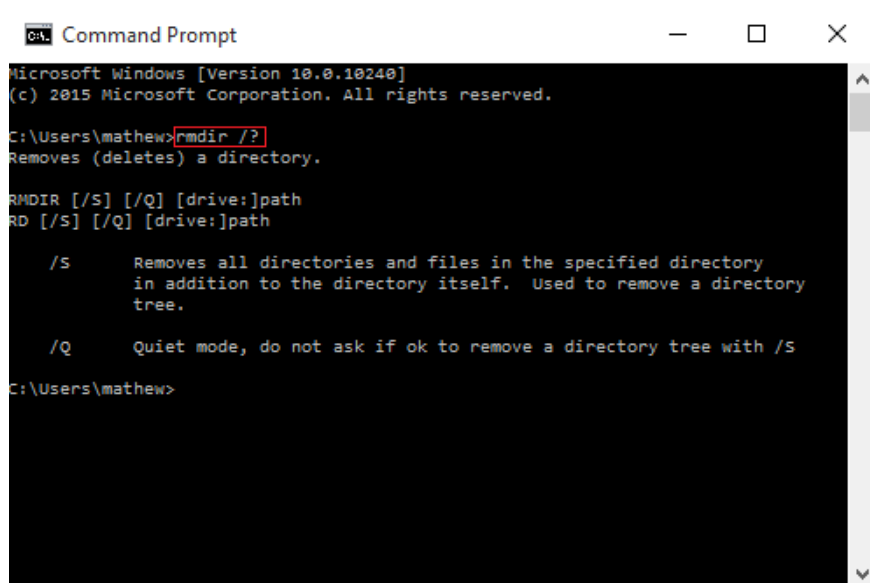
Or alternatively press the **Windows + X** key combination to open the Power User Menu. Here, click **Command Prompt** to open the Command Prompt window.



## Step 2:

Enter the following command into the Command Prompt window:

```
rmdir /?
```



The location attribute next to `rmdir` can be `/S` or `/Q`, depending on whether you want to delete the folder and the files in the particular directory.

## Refer to some of the following articles:

1. Use CMD to create an 'undeleted' folder on Windows
1. All Frequency Restart, Shutdown, Remote Off . with Command Prompt

1. No need to use an antivirus program, this is how to get rid of the virus on your computer

**Good luck!**

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