

# How to Clean Your Windows C-Drive

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The all-important C-drive is where the operating system is installed, and all the crucial system files are kept. Inevitably, this is also the drive that gets filled up most easily due to endless Windows updates, downloaded files that you forget about, and the fact that by default everything saves to the C-drive.

Here is how to clean up your C-drive, recover some space, and subsequently get your computer running quickly again.

## Clean Up Using Windows Storage Sense

Windows 10 has a feature called Storage Sense, which monitors the storage space on your PC, then jumps in and cleans things up if you're running low. It does basic things like clean your Recycle Bin, remove old files in your Downloads folder, and delete temporary files on your PC.

1. Go to Settings -> System, then click *Storage* in the pane on the left.
2. Click *Configure Storage Sense or run it now*
3. In the new window click the slider under Storage Sense so that it's *On*. You can use the drop-down menu below to choose whether you want it to run when you're low on space, daily, weekly or monthly.

## Scan for Large Files on Your Hard Drive

Using File Explorer, you can scan your entire hard drive for files based on their size.

1. Open up a File Explorer window, select your *C-drive*, then click the *Search (C:)* search box at the top-right of the window.
2. Type *size:* and you'll get a bunch of autofill options showing varying sizes of file to filter for. You can use one of these presets, or you get more specific about the size of file you're looking for by typing *size:>1gb* to look for files over 1GB in size and so on.

You can delete files directly from the results, or right-click and select *Sort by* -> *Size* to order them by size.

## Uninstall Space-Hungry Apps

In the *Apps & Features* window (right-click the Start button), you can sort the list by *Size* to see which applications are the most HDD-hungry. You may be surprised by the results and may wish to remove apps as appropriate. Think about whether you really need all those space-hungry apps, and delete as appropriate.

## Use Disk Clean-up Utility

1. Launch File Explorer, right-click on the C drive and select *Properties* from the list.
2. Click *Disk Cleanup* to open the utility. In the *files to delete* box, select all the checkboxes like System memory error dump files, Recycle Bin, set up log files, etc.
3. Click *OK* to free up the disk space occupied by the above files.

## Disable Hibernation

Hibernation is used to turn off your computer while saving the current state so you can resume your work when you power it on. Hibernation can take up a huge amount of disk space, as it reserves the amount of space on your hard drive equal to how much content is saved in your RAM.

1. Open your Windows Control Panel by pressing *Win + X* and selecting *Control Panel* from the list.
2. Select *Power Options*.
3. Click on the *choose what the power buttons do* link in the pane on the left. This will take you to the system settings window.
4. Click *Change settings that are currently unavailable*. This will enable all the disabled options.
5. Scroll down and un-check the *Hibernate* checkbox to disable hibernation in Windows 10.

## Remove Old Windows Update Files, Previous Installations

Windows has a tendency to hold onto old (and mostly redundant) system files. For the most part you can delete these files, particularly if you installed your current version of Windows over a previous version. To do this:

1. Open File Explorer, right-click the C drive and select *Properties*.
2. Click *Disk Cleanup*, then click *Clean up system files* to open the advanced disk cleanup window.
3. Select the *Windows upgrade log files* checkbox and, if you have anything there, the *Previous Windows installation(s)* checkbox.
4. Click *OK* to clean up your hard drive.

## Delete Browser Cache and Cookies

Temporary Internet files like the browser cache and cookies take up a little bit of your C drive space, so clearing those temporary files will grant you some free space.

- In **Chrome** go to *Settings* -> *Advanced* -> *Privacy and security*, then *Clear browsing data*.
- In **Firefox** go to *Options* -> *Privacy & Security*, then under *History*, select *clear your recent history*.
- In **Microsoft Edge** go to *Settings* -> *Clear browsing data* -> *Choose what to clear*, Make sure to select the *Cached data* and *Cookies* options.