



12Ghosts Wash

Covering Your Tracks in Windows

12-Wash will cover your trails in Windows and clean out folders. It includes options for Windows, browsers, and other applications. You can even turn on the included shredder for total security!

Windows

- **Clear Run history** - Clear entries in the list that will appear when you press START - Run and drop-down the "Open:" list. Note, you need to logoff and back on for the list to be cleared.

- **Clear Recent Documents** - Remove all entries in the START - Documents menu.

Important: The recent document entries are stored twice, once in the Recent folder, and a second time in the registry. If you use the Taskbar properties to clear the Documents Menu **only**, then the folder is cleared. 12-Wash will also clear the traces in the registry!

- **Clear Find Files history** - Clear the drop-down list "Named:" in the "Find Files or Folders" dialog box. You can access Find by clicking on START - Find - Files or Folders.
- **Clear Find Computer history** - Clear the drop-down list "Named:" in the "Find

Computer" dialog box. You can access Find Computer by clicking on START - Find - Computer.

- **Delete All Files in TEMP** - Clear the TEMP folder. This is a temporary folder used by many applications. Windows allows you to change the location of the TEMP folder, either in the autoexec.bat (Win95/98) or by START - Settings - Control Panel - System - Environment (NT/2000).

Browser

- **Clear list of manually typed addresses** - Clear the list of Internet addresses which appears when you open the address drop-down list in Internet Explorer.
- **Clear temporary cached files** - Clear the list of temporary cached files.
- **Delete cookies** - Remove IE cookies. You may exclude certain cookies from being removed, for example if one contains a logon password that you don't want to enter each time when accessing a certain web page.
- **Clear history list, including Auto-Complete info** - Clear the history list, including Auto-Complete info that is stored for forms.
- **Clear temporary cached files** - Clear the Netscape Navigator temporary cached files.
- **Close Explorer windows to delete 'index.dat'** - Windows locks certain files and effectively prevents deleting them. These files 'index.dat', however, contain all Internet addresses of all sites you have ever visited. Selecting this option allows deleting these files, nevertheless. There is no other way, short of restarting Windows, to remove these tracks in Temporary Internet Files, History, and Cookies.

Other

- **Clear WinZip File Menu** - Clear WinZip list of last opened zip files.
- **Set ACDSee last open folder to** - For ACDSee change the last open folder to the one in the edit field.

Click on the button "Clear Selected Items Now" to start washing your trails and removing temporary files.

Shredder

The included shredder will overwrite, truncate, rename, reset file date, and finally delete all files. The files will be overwritten with random characters.

You may choose the number of overwrites according to your security ambitions. The higher the number the less the probability that even finest magnetic tracks could be found. The Department of Defense (DOD 5220.22-M) recommends seven passes for adequate security.

12-Wash, of course, flushes the file buffers after each overwriting, otherwise we would only overwrite in RAM... This is what really is time consuming but if you do the washing during shut down called by 12-ShutDown, and the computer is set to power off automatically, the time doesn't matter anyway.

The file size will be set to zero to prevent drawing conclusions from the former file size.

The file will also be renamed, since the name would not be removed from disk during a normal deletion. And all file dates will be reset to 1/1/1980, not even revealing the deletion time.

Command Line Options

12-Wash also supports the following command line options:

- /washall** Clear all selected items. This will ask you for confirmation before "washing".
- /silent** No warning, use in conjunction with /washall.

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