

In most web browsers, you can clear the cache from the *Privacy* or *History* area in the *Settings* or *Options* menu, depending on the browser, of course. **Ctrl+Shift+Del** works with most browsers as well.

While that hotkey combo works in most non-mobile browsers, the exact steps involved in clearing your browser's cache depend entirely on what web browser you're using.

Below you'll find some browser and device specific instructions, as well as links to more expansive tutorials if you need them.

**Note:** Though they might sound similar, deleting browser cache files is not the same as deleting temporary files in Windows. Follow that link for a guide on doing that.

### **What Exactly Is Cache?**

Your browser's cache, pronounced like *cash*, is a collection of web pages, including the text, images, and most other media contained on them, that is stored on your hard drive or phone storage.

Having a local copy of a web page makes for *very* quick loading on your next visit because your computer or device doesn't have to download from the internet all of that same information again.

Cached data in the browser sounds great, so why do you ever have to clear it?

## Why Do You Have to Clear Cache?

You certainly don't *have* to, not as a regular part of computer or smartphone maintenance, anyway. However, a few good reasons to clear cache come to mind...

Clearing your cache forces your browser to retrieve the newest copy available from the website, something that should happen automatically but sometimes does not. You might also want to clear the cache if you're experiencing issues like 404 errors or 502 errors (among others), sometimes indications that your browser's cache is corrupted.

Another reason to delete cache files is to recover disk space. The cache on some browsers can take up *lots* of space, even in the gigabyte range.

This is especially helpful on mobile devices since they don't have as much storage as computers.

Regardless of why you might want to do it, clearing your cache is really easy to do in all the popular browsers in use today.

### Chrome: Clear Browsing Data

In Google Chrome, clearing the cache is done via the *Clear browsing data* area in *Settings*. From there, check **Cached images and files** (as well as anything else you want to remove) and then tap or click the **CLEAR BROWSING DATA** button.

Assuming you're using a keyboard, the quickest way to *Clear browsing data* is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Without a keyboard, tap or click the **Menu** button (the icon with three stacked dots) followed by **More tools** and finally **Clear browsing data....**

See [How to Clear the Cache in Chrome \[support.google.com\]](#) for more details.

**Tip:** Choose **the beginning of time** from the *Clear the following items from* option at the top of the *Clear browsing data* window to make sure you get everything.

In Chrome's mobile browser, go to **Settings** and then **Privacy**. From there, choose **Clear Browsing Data**. In this menu, check **Cached Images and Files** and press the **Clear Browsing Data** button once, and then again when asked.

#### **Internet Explorer: Delete Browsing History**

In Microsoft Internet Explorer, the browser that comes pre-installed on most Windows computers, clearing the cache is done from the *Delete Browsing History* area.

From here, check **Temporary Internet files and website files** and then click or tap **Delete**.

Like with other popular browsers, the fastest way to the *Delete Browsing History* settings is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Another option is via the **Tools** button (the gear icon), followed by **Safety** and then **Delete browsing history....** See [How to Clear the Cache in Internet Explorer](#) for a full set of instructions.

**Tip:** Internet Explorer often refers to the cache as *temporary internet files* but they're one in the same.

#### **Edge: Clear Browsing Data**

In Microsoft's Edge browser, included in their newer versions of Windows, clearing the cache is done via the *Clear browsing data* menu.

Once open, check **Cached data and files** and then tap or click **Clear**.

The fastest way to the *Clear browsing data* menu is via the **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut.

Another option is via the **More** button (that little icon with three horizontal dots), followed by **Settings** and then the **Choose what to clear** button under the *Clear browsing data* heading.

**Tip:** Tap or click **Show more** while in the *Clear browsing data* menu for additional items you can erase while clearing cached files and images.

#### **Firefox: Clear All History**

In Mozilla's Firefox browser, you clear the cache from the *Clear All History* area in the browser's *Options*. Once there, check **Cache** and then tap or click **Clear Now**.

The **Ctrl+Shift+Del** keyboard shortcut is probably the fastest way to open this tool. It's also available from Firefox's Menu button (the three-lined "hamburger" button) via **Options**, then **Privacy**, and finally the **clear your recent history** link.

See [How to Clear the Cache in Firefox](#) for a complete tutorial.

**Tip:** Don't forget to choose **Everything** from the *Time range to clear* set of options, assuming that's the time frame you want to clear the cache over.

### **Safari: Empty Caches**

In Apple's Safari browser, clearing the cache is done via the *Develop* menu. Just tap or click **Develop** and then **Empty Caches**.

With a keyboard, clearing the cache in Safari is super easy with the **Option-Command-E** shortcut.

See [How to Clear the Cache in Safari \[help.apple.com\]](#) if you need more help.

**Tip:** If you don't see *Develop* on your Safari menu bar, enable it via **Preferences**, then **Advanced**, followed by selecting the **Show Develop menu in menu bar** option. Windows users can delete all of Safari's stored data through the menu button and then **Preferences... > Privacy > Remove All Website Data....**