

COOKIES: What they are and how to delete them.

Cookies are stored on your computer as small text files by websites you visit and contain information such as site preferences or login status.

Most of these files are completely harmless, but others store private details like where you went, what you did, and any personal information you gave. Websites may also allow other sites (their advertisers, for example) to store third-party cookies on your computer.

Although cookies may seem harmless overall, they can threaten your privacy if an attacker tries to use them maliciously.

Because of that threat, most modern browsers make cookie storage easy to understand and control. They also make it simple to remove individual website cookies, or even to delete cookies from your computer entirely.

To ensure that companies are not keeping tabs on what you do online, **you should periodically clear your browser's cookies by accessing the Privacy or Browsing History sections of your browser's settings.** The exact process varies by browser, however, so you'll need to follow along with the instructions for the specific browser you use.

What can I do to clear cookies installed on my computer?

Although cookies are very useful to navigate the Internet, you definitely need to know the basics of removing your cookie files so you can protect your privacy online. There are two kinds of cookies-regular text browser cookies and flash cookies. To ensure maximum web browsing privacy, you have to delete both kinds of cookies. Too many Internet users delete cookies which are text-based and leave flash cookies intact. This doesn't protect your privacy. You have to know how to delete flash cookies, too.

There is no one standardized way to remove cookies since different browsers clear cookies using different procedures.

Follow the appropriate link to help you manage cookies on [Chrome](#), [Firefox](#), [Safari](#), [Opera](#), and [Internet Explorer](#) browsers. For other browsers, click on the link below:

<http://www.allaboutcookies.org/manage-cookies/>