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O&O SystemCleaner Documentation

Analyze temporary files and caches, choose what to remove, and review the space actually recovered.

This English user guide explains how to get started, use the main features and interpret the results. Choose a chapter from the sidebar, or follow one of the links below.

- [First Steps](#): complete your first session.
- [Feature Overview](#): find the right workflow.
- [System Requirements](#): check access and prerequisites.
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#): resolve common questions.
- [Support](#): prepare a support request.

Menu names and buttons in this manual use their English labels. If your application uses another language, the controls remain in the corresponding places.

Feature Overview

Analyze temporary files and caches, choose what to remove, and review the space actually recovered.

Feature	Learn how to use it
Analyzing Drives	Read the guide
Cleanup Categories	Read the guide
Cleaning and Reviewing Results	Read the guide
Administrator Rights	Read the guide

Start with First Steps for a complete first session. See System requirements for access and operating requirements.

The chapters describe the controls available in the current application. A feature may be unavailable when its required Windows service, device information or permissions are missing.

System Requirements

Windows and the application package

Use the Windows application package supplied for your computer by O&O Software or by the O&O product that includes this tool. The current application targets Windows 10 and Windows 11. Individual features depend on the operating-system version, services, permissions and hardware available.

The application starts as the current user. Protected cleanup locations require a restart as administrator and a new analysis.

Before starting

Keep the application in a writable, stable location when using a portable distribution. Use the complete O&O-supplied package for your architecture; copying one file out of a development build may omit required runtime components.

A browser is sufficient to read this online manual. The manual itself does not install the Windows application. Network access is needed to open online help and support pages or check for application updates.

First Steps

Follow the three steps **Analyze**, **Clean up** and **Done** to recover disk space.

1. Start **OOSystemCleaner.exe**, or open SystemCleaner from the tools offered by your O&O product.
2. In **Analyze**, select the categories you want to inspect. Read the explanation below each category.
3. Choose **All drives** or a single drive in the drive list, then choose **Analyze**. Analysis counts files; it does not delete them.
4. Review the drive cards in **Clean up**. The checkboxes now choose what will be deleted. Check the selected size and the explanations before proceeding.
5. Choose **Clean up** and let the operation finish.
6. In **Done**, review the files removed and space freed. Start a new analysis if you want to check the remaining items.

Review The Selection

Deleting cleanup files cannot be undone in SystemCleaner. In particular, emptying the Recycle Bin permanently removes its contents. Restore any files you need before selecting it.

Categories that need extra care, the Recycle Bin and items requiring elevation are not automatically selected for cleanup in an ordinary user session. See [Categories and Administrator rights](#).

Analyzing Drives

Analysis answers two questions: which kinds of files are present, and how much space they occupy on each drive.

Choose what and where to analyze

The category list controls **what** is scanned. The drive list controls **where**. A category appears only when its locations apply to the selected drive, so a data drive can show fewer categories than the Windows drive.

Choose **Analyze**. The status line identifies the current category and drive while counts update. You can cancel an analysis; cancellation returns to the analysis step instead of treating an incomplete scan as a completed result.

Understand the result

Results are grouped into drive cards, with the largest categories first. Categories with findings show their file count and occupied space. These are estimates of the space available for cleanup at the time of analysis; files can change or become locked before deletion.

An item that can only be measured as administrator is different from an empty category. Elevate and analyze again if you need its size. A result saying there is nothing to clean means the selected scan found no cleanup candidates.

Use **Back** to revise the analysis selection. Changing a cleanup checkbox selects files for deletion; it does not change the previous analysis scope.

Cleanup Categories

Read the explanation under a category before selecting it. Caches may be rebuilt, while diagnostic and recovery files can have lasting value.

Category	What to expect after cleanup
Temporary files	Removes temporary data in your user profile; files in use may remain.
Temporary system files	Includes Windows temporary files and accessible other-user temporary locations; elevation may be needed.
Internet cache and browser cache	Cached web data is downloaded again as needed. Close browsers first to reduce locked files.
Windows Update cache	Removes downloaded update cache files; Windows may download needed files again.
Delivery optimization files	Removes cached delivery data; later transfers can recreate it.
Memory dumps	Removes crash dumps that might otherwise help diagnose a system or application failure.
Error reports and system error reports	Removes stored Windows Error Reporting data.
Thumbnails	Removes thumbnail and icon cache files; Windows rebuilds them.
DirectX shader cache	Removes cached shader data; applications rebuild it when needed.
Setup log files	Removes installation and servicing logs that might help troubleshoot an installation.
Windows search index	Removes index data; rebuilding it takes time and can temporarily affect search.
Recycle Bin	Permanently empties the selected drive's Recycle Bin.
Previous Windows installation	Removes Windows.old data, potentially losing rollback files and personal files left in the old installation.
Temporary Windows installation files	Removes leftover installation staging data.
Windows ESD installation files	Removes installation data that may be needed for recovery or reinstallation.
Old Chkdsk files	Removes recovered fragments; inspect them first if you are trying to recover lost data.

Warning symbols and defaults

The search index, previous Windows installation and ESD installation data carry a warning symbol and are not preselected for cleanup. The Recycle Bin is also left unselected, and selecting it asks for confirmation.

SystemCleaner does not include a general Downloads-folder cleanup. Your downloaded documents are not treated as disposable temporary files.

Cleaning and Reviewing Results

Select files to remove

In the cleanup step, select individual category rows or use a drive card's checkbox to select its visible categories. A mixed checkbox means only part of the drive's list is selected. Review the selected total before choosing **Clean up**.

The Recycle Bin has its own confirmation. A Windows shield identifies locations requiring administrator rights; see Administrator rights.

During cleanup

The status line identifies the current operation. Allow the cleanup to finish. If you cancel, files already removed stay removed, and the final step reports the work completed so far.

Some files cannot be removed because they are open or access is denied. If Explorer holds thumbnail or icon caches open, SystemCleaner can offer to close Explorer, retry those files and restart Explorer afterwards. Accept only when you are ready for Explorer windows and the desktop shell to be interrupted.

Read the summary

The final counts report actual deletions and recovered space, rather than repeating the analysis estimate. Files that could not be removed are counted separately. Close the application using them and run another analysis if you want to try again.

Protected files in Windows.old may remain even with administrator rights. A partial cleanup is not evidence that those protected files were deleted.

Administrator Rights

SystemCleaner starts with your current Windows permissions. You can analyze accessible locations and clean your own temporary files without elevating the entire session.

When a shield appears

A Windows shield marks locations that require administrator rights, such as Windows folders, system-wide data and other users' files. Such rows are not automatically selected for cleanup in a normal user session.

Selecting one offers to restart SystemCleaner as administrator. If you accept, Windows requests approval or administrator credentials. The restart discards the current analysis, so **run the analysis again** before choosing what to clean. If you decline, the protected selection stays unchecked.

Inaccessible locations

A location that could not be measured is not necessarily empty. The result indicates that administrator rights are needed to measure it. Elevation improves access but cannot guarantee deletion of files held open or protected by Windows.

When SystemCleaner runs inside an already elevated O&O product, a separate elevation prompt may not be necessary.

Settings and Updates

Open the gear icon in the step bar to reach **Settings**.

Language and appearance

The General settings let you choose a language and display mode. Light and dark modes control the application's appearance; a system-based choice follows Windows. A changed language can require an application restart; follow the message in the dialog and finish active work first.

When this tool runs as part of an O&O product, it can offer an option to follow that product's language and appearance.

Application updates

The **Updates** page controls automatic update checks and shows the last check and its result. Use **Check now** to check manually. A newer version is announced in the main window's status bar; choosing it asks before downloading and applying an update.

The normal automatic check runs at most once per day when the application starts. An available update is not downloaded merely because a background check found it. The update process validates the downloaded application and restarts the tool to replace it.

Finish active work before updating. If the package cannot replace itself, the update action opens the download page instead. Checks are suppressed in a Windows recovery environment.

An application update changes the tool itself. It is separate from the Windows or file-system operations described in the feature chapters.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is less space freed than the analysis showed?

Files can change after analysis, remain in use or be protected. The final result counts only files actually removed. Close applications and analyze again to inspect what remains.

Can I undo a cleanup?

There is no cleanup undo in SystemCleaner. Review the category explanations and restore needed Recycle Bin files before cleanup. Windows can rebuild caches, but deleted crash dumps and personal files in the Recycle Bin are not restored this way.

Why is the Recycle Bin not selected?

Its contents may still be useful. Selecting it explicitly asks you to confirm permanent deletion.

Why did the program ask to restart as administrator?

You selected a protected location. The existing scan is discarded on restart; analyze again in the elevated session.

Why does Windows.old remain?

Some files are protected by Windows beyond ordinary administrator access. SystemCleaner reports those files as not removable.

Why are caches back after cleanup?

Windows and applications recreate caches during normal use. Their reappearance does not mean the previous cleanup failed.

Support and More from O&O

Get help

Press **F1** or use the help button to open online help for the current window.

For assistance, visit O&O Software Support. Include:

- The O&O SystemCleaner version and your Windows version.
- The steps that led to the problem.
- The exact message and any error code.
- Relevant findings or log excerpts, if available.

Review reports and logs before sharing them: they can include file paths, process names or other machine details.

Product information

See the O&O product catalog for downloads, product descriptions and licensing information for the package you use. If this tool was supplied with another O&O product, include that product's name and version in your support request.

O&O Software also offers tools for backup, recovery, storage optimization and Windows administration. Choose a tool according to the task you need to perform; reading this manual does not install or activate another product.