Microsoft Support

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How do I make the Recycle Bin appear on my desktop in Windows Vista or in Windows XP?

View products that this article applies to.

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Problem description The Recycle Bin does not appear on the desktop in Windows Vista or in Windows XP. Therefore, you cannot use the Recycle Bin to do such tasks as restoring a file that was deleted. This article will help you make the Recycle Bin work again.

To have us fix this problem for you, go to the "Fix it for me" section. If you would rather fix this problem yourself, go to the "Let me fix it myself" section.

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Fix it for me To fix this problem automatically, click the **Fix this problem** link. Then click **Run** in the **File Download** dialog box, and follow the steps in this wizard.

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Fix this problem

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Note This wizard may be in English only; however, the automatic fix also works for other language versions of Windows.

Note If you are not on the computer that has the problem, you can save the automatic fix to a flash drive or to a CD, and then you can run it on the computer that has the problem.

Next steps

Check whether the problem is fixed. If the problem is fixed, you are finished with this article. If the

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Article Translations

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problem is not fixed, you can try the procedure in the Workaround section.

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To fix this issue in Windows Vista, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Click **Appearance and Personalization**, click **Personalization**, and then click **Change desktop icons**.
3. Click to select the **Recycle Bin** check box, and then click **OK**.

Next steps

Check whether the problem is fixed. If the problem is fixed, you are finished with this article. If the problem is not fixed, you can try the procedure in the "Workaround" section.

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To fix this issue in Windows XP, use one of the following methods:

Method 1: Use the program that removed the Recycle Bin to restore the Recycle Bin

Note If you used the TweakUI program to hide the Recycle Bin, follow these steps to restore the Recycle Bin to the desktop. If you did not use the TweakUI program, see Method 2 or Method 3.

Important This section, method, or task contains steps that tell you how to modify the registry. However, serious problems might occur if you modify the registry incorrectly. Therefore, make sure that you follow these steps carefully. For added protection, back up the registry before you modify it. Then, you can restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up and restore the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

322756 How to back up and restore the registry in Windows

1. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type **regedit**, and then click **OK**.
2. **If you are using the standard Windows XP Start menu**
   a. Locate the following registry key:

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer

\HideDesktopIcons\NewStartPanel

   c. In the right pane, right-click the following registry DWORD value, and then click **Modify**:

      {645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}

   d. In the **Value data** box, type **0**, and then click **OK**. (The TweakUI utility sets this value to 1 to hide the Recycle Bin icon.)

If you are using the classic Windows XP Start menu

   a. Locate the following registry key:

      HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer

      \HideDesktopIcons\ClassicStartMenu

   b. In the right pane, right-click the following registry DWORD value, and then click **Modify**:

      {645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}

   c. In the **Value data** box, type **0**, and then click **OK**. (The TweakUI utility sets this value to 1 to hide the Recycle Bin icon.)

- Click **Exit** to exit Registry Editor.

Next steps

- Check whether the problem is fixed. If the problem is fixed, you are finished with this article. If the problem is not fixed, you can try the procedure in the "Workaround" section.

Method 2: Edit the registry to restore the Recycle Bin

Note If the system administrator used a Group Policy setting to hide the Recycle Bin (or "All Icons") on the Desktop, see Method 3.

Important This section, method, or task contains steps that tell you how to modify the registry. However, serious problems might occur if you modify the registry incorrectly. Therefore, make sure that you follow these steps carefully. For added protection, back up the registry before you modify it. Then, you can restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up and restore the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft

Knowledge Base:

322756 How to back up and restore the registry in Windows

To edit the registry to make the **Recycle Bin** icon reappear on the desktop, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Run**.
2. In the **Open** box, type **regedit**, and then click **OK**.
3. Locate the following registry key:

   HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\Desktop

   \NameSpace

4. Right-click the registry key that you located in step 3, point to **New**, and then click **Key**.
5. Type **{645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}**, and then press ENTER.
6. Click the new **{645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}** key that you created in

   step 5.
7. In the right pane, double-click the **(Default)** entry.
8. In the **Edit String** dialog box, type **Recycle Bin** in the **Value data** box, and then click **OK**.
9. Close Registry Editor.

Next steps

Check whether the problem is fixed. If the problem is fixed, you are finished with this article. If the

problem is not fixed, you can try the procedure in the "Workaround" section.

Method 3: Use the Group Policy Object Editor to restore the Recycle Bin

If the system administrator used a Group Policy setting to hide the Recycle Bin or "All Icons" on the

Desktop, you may have to contact the system administrator to restore the Recycle Bin icon. The

system administrator can either use the Group Policy Object Editor (GPEDIT.msc) or manually

remove the registry information (that was created through the Group Policy Object Editor) for the

Recycle Bin to restore the **Recycle Bin** icon to the Desktop.

Note The following procedures works only on Windows XP Professional. If your system is not

Windows XP Professional, you can try the procedure in the "Workaround" section.

Important This section, method, or task contains steps that tell you how to modify the registry.

However, serious problems might occur if you modify the registry incorrectly. Therefore, make sure

that you follow these steps carefully. For added protection, back up the registry before you modify it.

Then, you can restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up and restore the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

322756 How to back up and restore the registry in Windows

- To use the Group Policy Object Editor to restore the Recycle Bin:
    1. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type **GPEDIT.MSC** in the **Open** box, and then click **OK**.
    2. Under **User Configuration**, click **Administrative Templates**, and then double-click **Desktop**.
    3. Double-click **Remove Recycle Bin icon from the desktop**.
    4. Click the **Setting** tab, click **Not Configured**, and then click **OK**.
- To use Registry Editor to restore the Recycle Bin:
    1. Click **Start**, click **Run**, type **regedit**, and then click **OK**.
    2. Locate the following registry key:

        HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Policies
        \NonEnum

- Click the registry key that you located in step 3, and then in the right pane, click the following registry DWORD value:

    {645FF040-5081-101B-9F08-00AA002F954E}

- On the **Edit** menu, click **Delete**, and then click **Yes**.
- Close Registry Editor.

Next steps

Check whether the problem is fixed. If the problem is fixed, you are finished with this article. If the problem is not fixed, you can try the procedure in the "Workaround" section.

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Workaround If you cannot restore the Recycle Bin by using the resolutions that are listed in this article, work around this issue by creating a shortcut to the Recycle Bin:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **My Computer**.
2. On the **Tools** menu, click **Folder Options**.

3. Click the **View** tab, and then click to clear the **Hide protected operating system files (Recommended)** check box.

4. Click **Yes** when you receive the warning message, and then click **OK** to close the **Folder Options** dialog box.

5. Click **Folders** on the toolbar.

   Note If **Folders** is not visible on the toolbar, point to **Toolbars** on the **View** menu, and then click **Standard Buttons**.

6. In the left navigation pane, under **Folders**, locate the **Recycle Bin** folder, and then drag the **Recycle Bin** folder to the desktop.

7. On the **Tools** menu, click **Folder Options**.

8. Click the **View** tab, and then click to select the **Hide protected operating system files (Recommended)** check box. Click **OK**.

Note This procedure does not re-create the original icon. However, this procedure restores most of the features of the Recycle Bin. This includes the following:

- Delete a file by dragging it to the **Recycle Bin** icon on your Desktop.
- Retrieve a file that you deleted by double-clicking the **Recycle Bin** icon on your Desktop, right-clicking the file that you want to retrieve, and then clicking **Restore**.
- Empty the Recycle Bin by right-clicking the **Recycle Bin** icon on your Desktop, and then clicking **Empty Recycle Bin**.

Note When you use these step to work around this problem, you cannot right-click the **Recycle Bin** shortcut to access the Recycle Bin Properties. To set properties for the Recycle Bin, follow these steps:

1. Double-click the **Recycle Bin** shortcut on the Desktop. The Recycle Bin folder opens.

2. In the upper-left corner of the Recycle Bin folder, right-click the **Recycle Bin** icon, and then click **Properties**.

If this procedure did not fix the problem, you can contact support.

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Cause	Several issues could cause this problem:

- A third-party program was used to hide the Recycle Bin.
- The TweakUI program was used to hide the Recycle Bin.
- The registry information for the Recycle Bin was deleted.
- A Group Policy setting was used to hide the Recycle Bin.

Note Windows XP Home Edition does not support Group Policy.

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REFERENCES	For help with common system maintenance tasks in Windows Vista, visit the following

Microsoft Web page:

Fix problems with common system maintenance tasks

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APPLIES TO

- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional
- Windows Vista Enterprise
- Windows Vista Home Basic
- Windows Vista Home Premium
- Windows Vista Starter
- Windows Vista Ultimate
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter Edition (32-Bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Datacenter x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Enterprise Edition (32-Bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Enterprise x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Scalable Networking Pack
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 1

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Service Pack 2
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Web Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Datacenter Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Datacenter Edition for Itanium-Based Systems
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- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise Edition for Itanium-based Systems
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Standard x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Standard Edition (32-bit x86)
- Windows Server 2008 Datacenter without Hyper-V
- Windows Server 2008 Enterprise without Hyper-V
- Windows Server 2008 for Itanium-Based Systems
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