

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents ..... 1

Remove / Delete directory called /tmp/foo ..... 2

Recursive removal ..... 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [Debian / Ubuntu](#)

## Ubuntu Linux: Delete directory command in Terminal

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <[vivek@nixcraft.com](mailto:vivek@nixcraft.com)>

[1]

**Q.** Can you tell me command to delete a directory in terminal?

**A.** You need to use the `rmdir` utility / command. The `rmdir` utility removes the directory entry specified by each directory argument, provided it is empty. Arguments are processed in the order given. In order to remove both a parent directory and a subdirectory of that parent, the subdirectory must be specified first so the parent directory is empty when `rmdir` tries to remove it.

## Remove / Delete directory called /tmp/foo

Open the terminal. Type the following command:

```
$ rmdir /tmp/foo
```

## Recursive removal

Remove all files and directories (recursive removal):

```
$ rm -rf /path/to/directory  
$ rm -rf /tmp/foo
```

Please note that you can also pass `-p` option to `rmdir` command. Each directory argument is treated as a pathname of which all components will be removed, if they are empty, starting with the last most component:

```
$ rmdir -p /tmp/x/y/z
```

4000+ howtos and counting! Want to read more Linux / UNIX howtos, tips and tricks? Subscribe to our [daily email](#) newsletter or [weekly newsletter](#) to make sure you don't miss a single tip/tricks. Alternatively, subscribe via [RSS/XML](#) feed.

Article printed from Frequently Asked Questions About Linux / UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/>URL to article: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/delete-directory-command-in-terminal/>

URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/ubuntu-linux/>