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## Linux or Unix find and remove files with one find command on fly

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**Q.** How do I find and delete files under Linux / UNIX operating systems?

**A.** Some time it is necessary to find out files and remove them. However, rm command does not support search criteria.

However, with find command you can search for files in a directory and remove them on fly.

You need to combine find and rm command together.

Fortunately find command makes this operation quite easy. You can use find command as follows:



[1]

[2]

## Linux or UNIX - Find and remove file syntax

To remove multiple files such as \*.jpg or \*.sh with one command find, use

```
find . -name "FILE-TO-FIND" -exec rm -rf {} \;
```

OR

```
find . -type f -name "FILE-TO-FIND" -exec rm -f {} \;
```

The only difference between above two syntax is that first command can remove directories as well where second command only removes files.

## More Examples of find command

(a) Find all files having .bak (\*.bak) extension in current directory and remove them:

```
$ find . -type f -name "*.bak" -exec rm -f {} \;
```

(b) Find all core files and remove them:

```
# find / -name core -exec rm -f {} \;
```

(c) Find all \*.bak files in current directory and removes them with confirmation from user:

```
$ find . -type f -name "*.bak" -exec rm -i {} \;
```

Output:

```
rm: remove regular empty file `./data0002.bak'? y
rm: remove regular empty file `./d234234234fsdf.bak'? y
rm: remove regular empty file `./backup-20-10-2005.bak'? n
```

Caution: Before removing file makes sure, you have backup of all-important files. Do not use rm command as root user it can do critical damage to Linux/Unix system.

Above examples are specific to this topic only.

## See also : Other find command usage

For detailed information on find command please see Finding/locating files with find command [part # 1](#) <sup>[3]</sup>, [Part # 2](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

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[3] part # 1: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-findinglocating-files-with-find-command-part-1.html>

[4] Part # 2: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-findinglocating-files-with-find-command-part-2.html>

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