

## S3 Lifecycle Configuration

To automatically delete backups older than 7 days, you use S3 Lifecycle Configuration. This is a feature built into AWS S3 that automatically manages objects for you.

You can set this up easily from the AWS Console (Web Browser).

### Steps to Set 7-Day Retention Policy

1. Login to AWS Console and go to the S3 service.
2. Click on your bucket name (db-backups-2026).

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 Buckets page. It lists one bucket, "db-backups-2026", under the "General purpose buckets" tab. The bucket details show it was created on February 22, 2026, at 17:15:56 (UTC+05:30) in the Asia Pacific (Mumbai) region. There are buttons for "Copy ARN", "Empty", "Delete", and "Create bucket".

3. Click on the Management tab (usually the last tab on the right).

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 Objects page for the "db-backups-2026" bucket. It lists one object, "Postgres/", which is a folder. There are buttons for "Copy S3 URI", "Copy URL", "Download", "Open", "Delete", "Actions", "Create folder", and "Upload".

4. Scroll down to Lifecycle rules and click Create lifecycle rule.

The screenshot shows the AWS S3 Management tab for the "db-backups-2026" bucket. Under the "Lifecycle configuration" section, it says "No lifecycle rules". There is a button labeled "Create lifecycle rule".

Fill in the Rule Details:

1. Rule name: Enter a name, e.g., DeleteOldBackups.

### Create lifecycle rule Info

The screenshot shows the "Create lifecycle rule configuration" page. It has fields for "Lifecycle rule name" (set to "DeleteOldBackups"), "Scope" (set to "Limit the scope of this rule using one or more filters"), and "Filter type" (set to "Postgres/"). A note below says "You can filter objects by prefix, object tags, object size, or whatever combination suits your usecase."

2. Scope:

Select Limit the scope of this rule using one or more filters.

In the Prefix box, type: Postgres/

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(This ensures the rule only applies to your database backups and not other files in the bucket).

### Prefix

Add filter to limit the scope of this rule to a single prefix.

Postgres/

Don't include the bucket name in the prefix. Using certain characters in key names can cause problems with some applications and protocols. [Learn more ↗](#)

### Object tags

You can limit the scope of this rule to the key/value pairs added below.

[Add tag](#)

### Object size

You can limit the scope of this rule to apply to objects based on their size. [Learn more ↗](#)

- Specify minimum object size
- Specify maximum object size

### 3. Lifecycle rule actions:

Check the box: Expire current versions of objects.  
(This is the setting that deletes files).

## Lifecycle rule actions

Choose the actions you want this rule to perform.

- Transition current versions of objects between storage classes  
This action will move current versions.
- Transition noncurrent versions of objects between storage classes  
This action will move noncurrent versions.
- Expire current versions of objects
- Permanently delete noncurrent versions of objects
- Delete expired object delete markers or incomplete multipart uploads  
These actions are not supported when filtering by object tags or object size.

### 4. Expire current versions of objects:

Enter 7 in the "Days after object creation" box.

#### Expire current versions of objects

For version-enabled buckets, Amazon S3 adds a delete marker and the current version of an object is retained as a noncurrent version. For non-versioned buckets, Amazon S3 permanently removes the object. [Learn more ↗](#)

Days after object creation

7

## Review

### Review transition and expiration actions

#### Current version actions

##### Day 0

- Objects uploaded

↓

##### Day 7

- Objects expire

#### Noncurrent versions actions

##### Day 0

No actions defined.

### 5. Click Create rule at the bottom.

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The screenshot shows the AWS S3 Lifecycle Configuration interface. At the top, there is a green success message: "The rule 'DeleteOldBackups' has been successfully added and the lifecycle configuration has been updated. It may take some time for the configuration to be updated. Refresh the lifecycle rules list if changes to the configuration aren't displayed." Below this, the "Lifecycle configuration" section is shown, with a table of lifecycle rules:

Lifecycle rule name	Status	Scope	Current version actions	Noncurrent versions actions	Expired object delete ...	Incomplete multipart u...
DeleteOldBackups	Enabled	Filtered	Expires	-	-	-

Below the table, the "DeleteOldBackups" rule is selected, and its details are shown in the "Lifecycle rule configuration" section:

Lifecycle rule name: DeleteOldBackups	Prefix: Postgres/	Minimum object size: -
Status: Enabled	Object tags: -	Maximum object size: -
Scope: Filtered		

The "Review transition and expiration actions" section shows the following rules:

Current version actions	Noncurrent versions actions
Day 0 • Objects uploaded ↓ Day 7 • Objects expire	Day 0 No actions defined.

The "Delete expired object delete markers or incomplete multipart uploads" section shows the following rules:

Expired object delete markers	Incomplete multipart uploads
-	-

How it works:

AWS will check this bucket daily.

Any file inside the Postgres/ folder that is older than 7 days will be permanently deleted.

You do not need to change your script; AWS handles the cleanup automatically.