

# DeleteCriticalSection function

Releases all resources used by an unowned critical section object.

## Syntax

C++

```
void WINAPI DeleteCriticalSection(  
    _Inout_ LPCRITICAL_SECTION lpCriticalSection  
);
```

## Parameters

*lpCriticalSection* [in, out]  
A pointer to the critical section object. The object must have been previously initialized with the [InitializeCriticalSection](#) function.

## Return value

This function does not return a value.

## Remarks

Deleting a critical section object releases all system resources used by the object.

After a critical section object has been deleted, do not reference the object in any function that operates on critical sections (such as [EnterCriticalSection](#), [TryEnterCriticalSection](#), and [LeaveCriticalSection](#)) other than [InitializeCriticalSection](#) and [InitializeCriticalSectionAndSpinCount](#). If you attempt to do so, memory corruption and other unexpected errors can occur.

If a critical section is deleted while it is still owned, the state of the threads waiting for ownership of the deleted critical section is undefined.

- Windows Phone 8:** This API is supported.
- Windows Phone 8.1:** This API is supported.

## Examples

For an example that uses [DeleteCriticalSection](#), see [Using Critical Section Objects](#).

## Requirements

Minimum supported client	Windows XP [desktop apps   Windows Store apps]
Minimum supported server	Windows Server 2003 [desktop apps   Windows Store apps]
Header	WinBase.h on Windows XP, Windows Server 2003, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, and Windows Server 2008 R2 (include Windows.h); Synchapi.h on Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012
Library	Kernel32.lib

---

## See also

- [Critical Section Objects](#)
- [EnterCriticalSection](#)
- [InitializeCriticalSection](#)
- [LeaveCriticalSection](#)
- [Synchronization Functions](#)
- [TryEnterCriticalSection](#)

---

## Community Additions

---