| **Dir Command Options** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Explanation** |
| *drive***:***, path, filename* | This is the *drive*, *path*, and/or *filename* that you want to see results for. All three are optional since the command can be executed alone. Wildcards are allowed. See the *Dir Command Examples* section below if this isn't clear. |
| **/a** | When executed alone, this switch shows all types of files and folders, including those with [file attributes](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-file-attribute-2625793) that typically prevent them from showing up in Command Prompt or in Windows. Use **/a** with one or more of the following *attributes* (colon is optional, no spaces needed) to show only those types of files in the command result:  *a* = [archive files](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-an-archive-file-2625792)  *d* = directories  *h* = [hidden files](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-hidden-file-2625898)  *i* = not content indexed files  *l* = reparse points  *r* = [read-only files](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-read-only-file-2625983)  *s* = [system files](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-system-file-2626015)  *v* = integrity files  *x* = no scrub files  *-* = Use this as a prefix to any of the above attributes to exclude items with those file attributes from the results. |
| **/b** | Use this option to show the dir results using "bare" format, which removes the typical header and footer information, as well as all the details on each item, leaving only the directory name or file name and extension. |
| **/c** | This switch forces the use of the thousands separator when the command is used in a way that shows file sizes. This is the default behavior on most computers, so the practical use is **/-c** to disable the thousands separator in results. |
| **/d** | Use **/d** to limit the items displayed to just folders (contained within brackets) and file names with their extensions. Items are listed top-to-bottom and then across columns. Standard dir command header and footer data remain the same. |
| **/l** | Use this option to show all folder and file names in lowercase. |
| **/n** | This switch produces a result with columns in the *date* > *time* > *directory* > *file size* > *file or folder name* column structure. Since this is the default behavior, the practical use is **/-n** which produces columns in the *file or folder name* > *directory* > *file size*> *date* > *time* order. |
| **/o** | Use this option to specify a sort order for the results. When executed alone, **/o** lists directories first, followed by files, both in alphabetical order. Use this option with one or more of the following values (colon is optional, no spaces needed) to sort the dir command result in the specified manner:  *d* = sort by date/time (oldest first)  *e* = sort by extension (alphabetical)  *g* = group directory first, followed by files  *n* = sort by name (alphabetical)  *s* = sort by size (smallest first)  *-* = Use this as a prefix with any of the above values to reverse the order (*-d* to sort by newest first, *-s* for largest first, etc.). |
| **/p** | This option displays the results one page at a time, interrupted with a *Press any key to continue...* prompt. Using **/p** is very similar to using the dir command with the [more command](https://www.lifewire.com/more-command-4041467). |
| **/q** | Use this switch to display the owner of the file or folder in the results. The easiest way to view or change a file's ownership from within Windows is via the *Advanced* button in the *Security* tab when looking at the file's *Properties*. |
| **/r** | The **/r** option shows any alternate data streams (ADS) that are part of a file. The data stream itself is listed in a new row, under the file, and is always suffixed with *$DATA*, making them easy to spot. |
| **/s** | This option shows all the files and folders in the specified directory *plus* all of the files and folders contained within any subdirectories of that specified directory. |
| **/t** | Use this option with one of the values below (colon is optional, no spaces needed) to specify a time field to be used when sorting and/or displaying results:  *a* = last access  *c* = created  *w* = last written |
| **/w** | Use **/w** to show results in "wide format" which limits the items displayed to just folders (contained within brackets) and file names with their extensions. Items are listed left-to-right and then down rows. Standard dir command header and footer data remain the same. |
| **/x** | This switch shows the "short name" equivalent for files whose long names don't comply with non-8dot3 rules. |
| **/4** | The **/4** switch forces the use of 4-digit years. At least in newer versions of Windows, the 4-digit year display is the default behavior and **/-4** doesn't result in a 2-digit year display. |
| **/?** | Use the [help switch](https://www.lifewire.com/help-switch-2625896) with the dir command to show details about the above options directly in the Command Prompt window. Executing **dir /?** is the same as using the [help command](https://www.lifewire.com/help-command-2618092) to execute **help dir**. |