NAME

rm − remove files or directories

SYNOPSIS

rm [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of **rm**. **rm** removes each specified file. By default, it does not remove directories.

If the −*I* or −−*interactive=once* option is given, and there are more than three files or the −*r*, −*R*, or −−*recursive* are given, then **rm** prompts the user for whether to proceed with the entire operation. If the response is not affirmative, the entire command is aborted.

Otherwise, if a file is unwritable, standard input is a terminal, and the −*f* or −−*force* option is not given, or the −*i* or −−*interactive=always* option is given, **rm** prompts the user for whether to remove the file. If the response is not affirmative, the file is skipped.

OPTIONS

Remove (unlink) the FILE(s).

−f, −−force
>   ignore nonexistent files and arguments, never prompt

−i
>   prompt before every removal

−I
>   prompt once before removing more than three files, or when removing recursively; less intrusive than **−i**, while still giving protection against most mistakes

−−interactive[=*WHEN*]
>   prompt according to WHEN: never, once (**−I**), or always (**−i**); without WHEN, prompt always

−−one−file−system
>   when removing a hierarchy recursively, skip any directory that is on a file system different from that of the corresponding command line argument

−−no−preserve−root
>   do not treat '/' specially

−−preserve−root[=*all*]
>   do not remove '/' (default); with 'all', reject any command line argument on a separate device from its parent

−r, −R, −−recursive
>   remove directories and their contents recursively

−d, −−dir
>   remove empty directories

−v, −−verbose
>   explain what is being done

−−help display this help and exit

−−version
>   output version information and exit

By default, rm does not remove directories. Use the **−−recursive** (**−r** or **−R**) option to remove each listed directory, too, along with all of its contents.

To remove a file whose name starts with a '−', for example '−foo', use one of these commands:

>   rm −− **−foo**

>   rm ./−foo

Note that if you use rm to remove a file, it might be possible to recover some of its contents, given sufficient expertise and/or time. For greater assurance that the contents are truly unrecoverable, consider using shred.

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Report any translation bugs to <https://translationproject.org/team/>

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SEE ALSO

unlink(1), unlink(2), chattr(1), shred(1)

Full documentation <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/rm>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) rm invocation'