

# Delete a File Using Java

Difficulty Level : Easy Last Updated : 24 Jan, 2022

Java provides methods to delete files using java programs. On the contrary to normal delete operations in any operating system, files being deleted using the java program are deleted permanently without being moved to the trash/recycle bin.

## Methods used to delete a file in Java:

**1. Using `java.io.File.delete()` function:** Deletes the file or directory denoted by this abstract pathname.

### Syntax:

```
public boolean delete()
```

**Returns:** It returns true if and only if the file or the directory is successfully deleted; false otherwise

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```
// Java program to delete a file
import java.io.*;

public class Test {
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        File file
            = new File("C:\\Users\\Mayank\\Desktop\\1.txt");

        if (file.delete()) {
            System.out.println("File deleted successfully");
        }
        else {
            System.out.println("Failed to delete the file");
        }
    }
}
```

## Output:

```
File deleted successfully
```

## 2. Using `java.nio.file.files.deleteIfExists(Path p)` method defined in `Files`

**package:** This method deletes a file if it exists. It also deletes a directory mentioned in the path only if the directory is not empty.

### Syntax:

```
public static boolean deleteIfExists(Path path) throws IOException
```

**Parameters:** path – the path to the file to delete

**Returns:** It returns true if the file was deleted by this method; false if it could not be deleted because it did not exist.

### Throws:

- **DirectoryNotEmptyException** – if the file is a directory and could not otherwise be deleted because the directory is not empty (optional specific exception)
  - **IOException** – if an I/O error occurs.
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```
// Java program to demonstrate delete using Files class

import java.io.IOException;
import java.nio.file.*;

public class Test {
    public static void main(String[] args)
    {
        try {
            Files.deleteIfExists(
                Paths.get("C:\\Users\\Mayank\\Desktop\\
445.txt"));
        }
        catch (NoSuchFileException e) {
            System.out.println(
                "No such file/directory exists");
        }
        catch (DirectoryNotEmptyException e) {
            System.out.println("Directory is not empty.");
        }
    }
}
```

```
        catch (IOException e) {  
            System.out.println("Invalid permissions.");  
        }  
  
        System.out.println("Deletion successful.");  
    }  
}
```

## Output:

```
Deletion successful.
```

This article is contributed by **Mayank Kumar**. If you like GeeksforGeeks and would like to contribute, you can also write an article using [write.geeksforgeeks.org](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/write-a-blog/) or mail your article to [review-team@geeksforgeeks.org](mailto:review-team@geeksforgeeks.org). See your article appearing on the GeeksforGeeks main page and help other Geeks. Please write comments if you find anything incorrect, or you want to share more information about the topic discussed above.