

chflags

Change a file or folder's flags.

Syntax

```
chflags [-fhvx] [-R [-H | -L | -P]] flags file-or-folder ...
```

Options

- R Recurse: Change the file flags of *file-or-folder* hierarchies rooted in the files instead of just the *file-or-folder* themselves.
So if the given folder contains files or sub-folders, apply the change to them all.

Beware of unintentionally matching the .. hard link to the parent directory when using wildcards like ".*".
- R -H Follow symbolic links on the command line
by default Symbolic links within the tree are not followed.
- R -L All symbolic links are followed
- R -P No symbolic links are followed
- f Do not display a diagnostic message
the exit status to reflect the success or failure of the operation.
- h If the *file-or-folder* is a directory, set the flags on the directory rather than the file to which it points.
- v Cause chflags to be verbose
If the -v option is specified, the flags are printed, in octal notation.
- x Do not cross mount points.

The flags are specified as an octal number or a character flag.

hidden Set the hidden flag

Keywords and keyword aliases - Owner or Super-user only:

- opaque Set the opaque flag
- nodump Set the nodump flag
- uappnd, uappend Set the uappnd flag
- uchg, uchange, uimmutable Set the uchg flag
- uunlnk, uunlink Set the uunlnk flag

Keywords and keyword aliases - Super-user only:

- arch, archived Set the arch flag
- sappnd, sappnd Set the sappnd flag
- schg, schange, simmutable Set the schg flag
- sunlnk, sunlink Set the sunlnk flag

The immutable flag makes the file/folder Locked/Protected and is equivalent to locking the file in Finder's Show Info box.

Putting the letters no before an option causes the flag to be turned off.

For example:


- uchg Means the file cannot be changed
- nouchg Means the file can be changed (immutable bit cleared)
- hidden Will set the hidden flag
- nohidden Will remove the hidden flag


In early versions of macOS locked/immutable files could not be deleted from the trashcan. In Mac OS X 10.1 and later locked files can easily be deleted by pressing press Shift-Option or Option [key combination](#) while emptying the Trash.


Symbolic links do not have flags, so unless the -H or -L option is set, chflags on a symbolic link always succeeds and has no effect. The -H, -L and -P options are ignored unless the -R option is specified. In addition, these options override each other and the command's actions are determined by the last one specified.

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The sappnd and schg flags can only be unset when the system is in single-user mode. chflags(2).

Use `ls -l` to see the flags of existing files.

The return status is zero if the mode is successfully changed, and >0 if an error occurs.

Examples

Lock the folder "finance" against changes:

```
$ chflags uchg finance
```

Unlock the folder named "finance" and allow changes to all the contents:

```
$ chflags -R nouchg finance
```

Make the folder ~/Library visible (this was the default setting prior to OS X Lion):

```
$ chflags nohidden ~/Library
```

An alternative method to view the library is to use the 'Go' drop down menu in Finder and hold down the option key:

Hide the folder ~/Library from finder:

```
$ chflags hidden ~/Library
```

Make the file MyLogs.txt append-only:

```
$ chflags uappnd MyLogs.txt
```

Unlock your Documents directory and everything in it:

```
$ chflags -R nouchg ~/Documents
```



"Fifteen referees. I want fifteen referees to be against me. I want fifteen referees to be against me except me. There's not a man alive who can whip me. Only way I'll ever get licked" ~ Muhammad Ali

Related macOS commands

- Local man page: [chflags](#) - Command line help page
- [HT1526](#) - Empty the (locked) trash with chflags.
- [ln](#) - Make links between files (hard links, symbolic links)
- [ls](#) - List information about file(s).
- [setfile](#) - Set attributes of HFS+ files.

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*ce I'm gonna set
stamp. That's the*

