



[Course](#) > [Chapter 4: M...](#) > [Manipulatin...](#) > [Deleting Ima...](#)

Deleting Images

Deleting One Image

Any image downloaded to the Docker cache is kept there even if no containers are using it. However, images can become outdated, and should be subsequently replaced.

Note

Any updates to images in a registry are *not* automatically updated in the daemon's cache. The image must be removed and then pulled again to guarantee that the cache has all updates made to the registry.

To delete an image from the cache, use the **docker rmi** command. The syntax for this command is as follows:

```
# docker rmi [OPTIONS] IMAGE [IMAGE...]
```

The major option available for the **rmi** subcommand is **--force=true** to force the removal of an image. An image can be referenced using its name or its ID for removal purposes.



The same image can be shared among multiple tags, and to use the **rmi** verb with the image ID will fail. To avoid a tag-by-tag removal for an image, the simplest approach would be using the **--force** option.

Any container using the image will block any attempt to delete an image. All the containers using that image must be stopped and removed before it can be deleted.

Deleting All Images

To delete all images that are not used by any container, use the following command:

```
# docker rmi $(docker images -q)
```

This returns all the image IDs available in the cache and passes them as a parameter to the **docker rmi** command for removal. Images that are in use will not be deleted, but this does *not* prevent any unused images from being removed.

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