

**The results are in!** See what nearly 90,000 developers picked as their most loved, dreaded, and desired coding languages and more in the 2019 Developer Survey.

## Remove empty lines in text using Visual Studio

[Ask Question](#)

How to remove empty lines in Visual Studio?

127

[regex](#)[visual-studio](#)[visual-studio-2010](#)[line](#)

65

edited Oct 17 '18 at 10:16



[Luke Girvin](#)

10.9k 8 52 74

asked Sep 17 '12 at 4:32



[Alaa](#)

5,173 14 45 80

[For Visual Studio Code](#) – [Deepu Reghunath](#) Feb 19 at 12:05

Is there an answer for this without using regular expression? Just by using a shortcut like CTRL-K-D which formats the document but forgets to remove double blank lines. – [Jan](#) Apr 5 at 10:43

11 Answers

## Using Visual Studio 2017

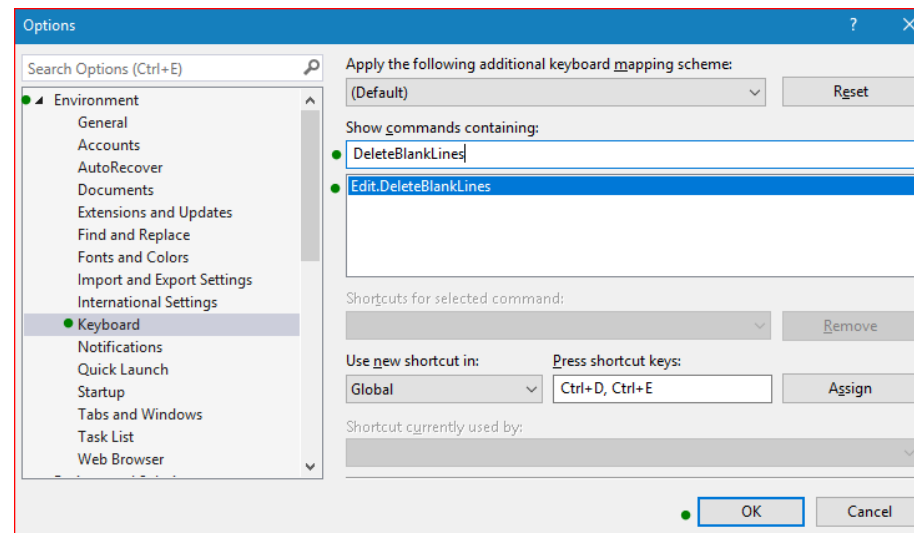
5

in **Current Document**

use shortcut

- Open **Tools > Options** or press Alt + T + O
- Under **Environment** tab > **Keyboard**
- Search for "**DeleteBlank**" and select `Edit.DeleteBlankLines`
- Add a new shortcut for example Ctrl + D, Ctrl + E
- **Assign > OK**

select all text and hit the shortcut



answered Oct 12 '18 at 13:00



Anas Alweish

608 8 24

- 1 `Ctrl+Shift+D`, `Ctrl+Shift+D` is good intuitive shortcut. – [Stanislav Prusac](#)  
Dec 11 '18 at 2:25

This only delete selected blank line(s) or from current line till the next non-blank line. It's not for the whole document or project. – Jan Apr 5 at 10:41



I'm using visual studio 2017, non of the above worked for me until I tried `\n\r`

2

Steps:



1. Ctrl + H (opens find and replace)
2. Select use regular expression (Alt + E)
3. Enter `\n\r` into the "Find..." input
4. Press replace

answered Sep 24 '18 at 20:56



tony09uk

1,086 3 24 42



94

It's very useful especially if you want to arrange or compare codes, thanks for the people who answer this question, I've got the answer from [here](#) and would like to share it with Stackoverflow:



Visual Studio has ability to delete empty lines in replace operation using regular expressions.



- Click `Ctrl` - `H` (quick replace)
- Tick "Use Regular Expressions"

[Home](#)[PUBLIC](#)[Stack Overflow](#)[Tags](#)[Users](#)[Jobs](#)**Teams**

Q&amp;A for work

[Learn More](#)

- In Find specify `^$\n`
- In Replace box delete everything.
- Click "Replace All"

All empty lines will be deleted.

Regular expression for empty line consist of

Beginning of line `^`

End of line `$`

Line break `\n`

Note that normally in Windows an end of line indicated by 2 characters `\r\n` - Carriage Return (CR, ASCII 13, `\r`) Line Feed (LF, ASCII 10, `\n`).

A regex to remove blank lines that are/aren't *really* blank (i.e. they do/don't have spaces): `^:b*$\n`

To remove double lines: `^:b*\n:b*\n` replace with: `\n`

**\* for Visual Studio 2013 and above:\***

`^\s*$\n`

and for double lines:

`^(?([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n(?:([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n`

See the regular expression syntax updates for VS2012 and above in [@lennart's answer](#) below

edited Aug 12 '17 at 8:59

answered Sep 17 '12 at 4:32



Alaa

5,173 14 45 80

Works like a charm with cleaning XML file in Visual Studio 2015. Anyone know how to make a shortcut to execute this? – [Leszek Repie](#) Mar 4 '16 at 10:51

1 for Visual Studio 2012 and above check the answer below – [Alaa](#) Jul 26 '16 at 13:10

1 Is there a way for this to work with the automatic formatter? – [Kyle Delaney](#) Apr 6 '17 at 19:38



Since Visual Studio 2012 changed its regex syntax, the original answers by Alaa translate into the following in VS 2012:

160



### Remove single blank lines

Old:

```
^:b*$\n
```

New:

```
^(?([^\r\n])\s)*\r?$\r?\n
```

Visual Studio 2013 (thanks to BozoJoe and Joe Johnston):

```
^\s*$\n
```

### Remove double blank lines

Old:

```
^:b*\n:b*\n
```

New:

```
^(?([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n(?:([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n
```

Rolls right off your tongue.

[Here](#) is the conversion sheet from MSDN.

edited Mar 1 '17 at 10:41



Oliver

6,856 4 51 80

answered Dec 21 '12 at 9:22



Lennart

6,216 12 52 66

---

13 vs2013: `^s+$\n` – [BozoJoe](#) Mar 19 '14 at 18:58

BozoJoe's answer, for me, worked well in VS2012 also (Update 4) –  
[BertuPG](#) Oct 28 '14 at 12:18

---

5 `^s+$\n` changed to `^s*$\n` allow for (no content) pure line feeds. –  
[Joe Johnston](#) Jan 6 '15 at 16:15

---

4 `^s+$\n` works also in Visual Studio 2015 – [hdoghmen](#) Mar 22 '16 at 11:08

---

4 How can i make this automated, like working with CTRL+K+D? – [ErTR](#)  
Jun 10 '16 at 9:05



0

`Ctrl` + `K`, `Ctrl` + `D` auto formats the current document and that removes unnecessary space in your code. It helps keep your code readable if that what you were looking for.

edited Jan 10 '17 at 7:01



[Keshan Nageswaran](#)

5,617 3 16 33

answered Jan 8 '17 at 14:04



[Marcus Callender](#)

49 3

---

i am referencing my issue , please look ,it looking ,this is something i was looking . [stackoverflow.com/questions/44747909/...](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/44747909/...) – [Vivek Shukla](#) Jun 27 '17 at 6:53

---

This doesn't remove double/redeundant empty lines. – [Jan](#) Apr 5 at 10:33

---



1

Install [CodeMaid](#) and hit Ctrl+M, Space' to clean up the code. (It formats the code, like Format Document Ctrl+E, D`, as well). You can clean up more files from Solution Explorer.



answered May 13 '15 at 15:41



[xmedeko](#)

3,901 2 33 61



14

Tested in VS 2012 to allow for pure line feeds.

`^\s*$\n`



hth

answered Jan 6 '15 at 16:13



[Joe Johnston](#)

1,704 1 18 41

---

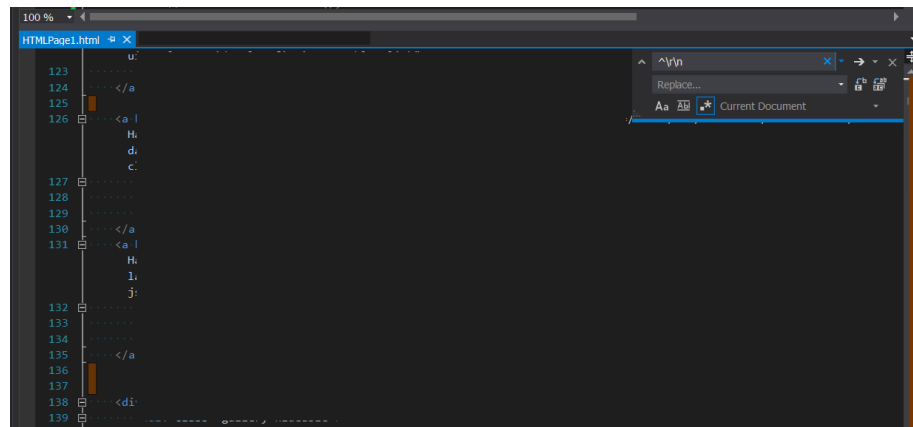
2 this works for me in VS 2015, the accepted answer did not unfortunately –

EdwardM Apr 13 '16 at 22:09

Works in VS 2013 as well. – Joe Johnston Mar 1 '17 at 21:30

- 1 Works well in VS 2017, the accepted answer does not. – Germstorm Jun 8 '18 at 10:52

18 In Visual Studio 2013 (Version 12.0.20623.01) i removed empty lines with this regular expression `^\r\n`. In the screen you can see the matched lines indicated by the brown squares.



answered Sep 22 '14 at 19:14



surfmuggle

3,833 5 29 60

I also tried such way, but visual studio stuck frozen for some minutes and then replaced only 1 occurrence of several hundred I have! lol :-D –

BertuPG Oct 28 '14 at 12:12

To remove double lines: `^:b*\n:b*\n` replace with: `\n`



2

Source: <http://geekswithblogs.net/mnf/archive/2008/03/04/remove-empty-lines-in-text-using-visual-studio.aspx>

answered Apr 1 '14 at 19:58



olegansoft

21 2

This answer is a repeating to the same answers above! – [Alaa](#) Apr 2 '14 at 4:57

1

In VS 2012, the regex string to use to find and replace all blank lines is `^(?([\r\n])\s)\r?\n`

answered Sep 7 '13 at 1:35



cmsmith81

21 1

9

To remove two or more adjacent empty rows with VS2012 use this:

`^(?([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n^(?([\r\n])\s)*\r?\n`

answered Feb 22 '13 at 8:37



pbz

4,418 13 45 65

I was looking for a solution to replace two empty lines into just one. It works for me. Thanks! – [Ricardo França](#) Sep 23 '16 at 14:25