

# How to clean the printer spooler to speed up the print queue

1. **Stop all printing** to avoid removing print jobs that you need.
2. **Click the Start button and type "cmd" in the search box.** Right click "cmd.exe" in the list of results to launch the Command Prompt utility and click "Run as administrator" from the context menu that appears. A dialog box appears; click "OK" to allow the program to make changes to your computer.
3. **Type "net stop spooler"** (without the quotes here and throughout) at the command prompt and press "Enter" to run the command and stop the print spooler.
4. **Type "del %systemroot%\system32\spool\printers\*.shd" and press "Enter,"** then type "del %systemroot%\system32\spool\printers\*.spl" and press "Enter." These commands remove the stuck print jobs from the print spooler.

Type "net start spooler" and press "Enter" to restart the print spooler. The spooler now works at maximum speed, and you can resume printing.

## METHOD 1

### 1. Stop the Print Spooler service:

Open the Services management console by pressing Win + R, typing `services.msc`, and hitting Enter. Locate the "Print Spooler" service in the list.

Right-click on "Print Spooler" and select "Stop" from the context menu.

### 2. Clear the print queue:

Open File Explorer and navigate to `C:\Windows\System32\spool\PRINTERS` (assuming your Windows installation is on the C: drive).

Delete all files in this folder. These are the print jobs waiting to be printed.

### 3. Restart the Print Spooler service:

Go back to the Services management console.

Right-click on "Print Spooler" and select "Start" from the context menu.

### 4. Verify the print queue:

Open the Printers folder by pressing Win + R, typing `control printers`, and hitting Enter.

Check if the print queue is now empty.

## METHOD 2