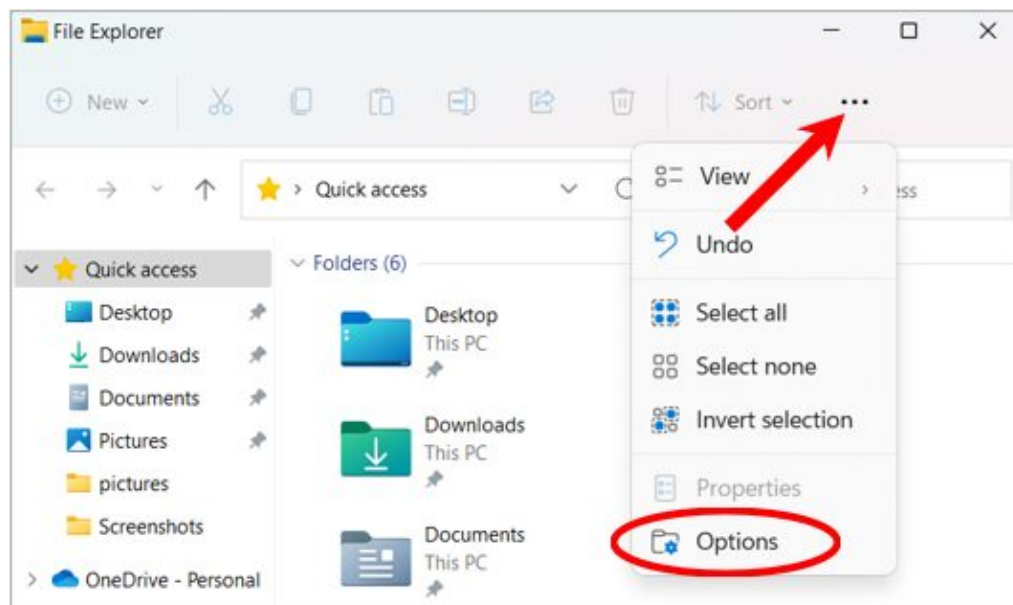# How do I stop viewing hidden files in Windows?
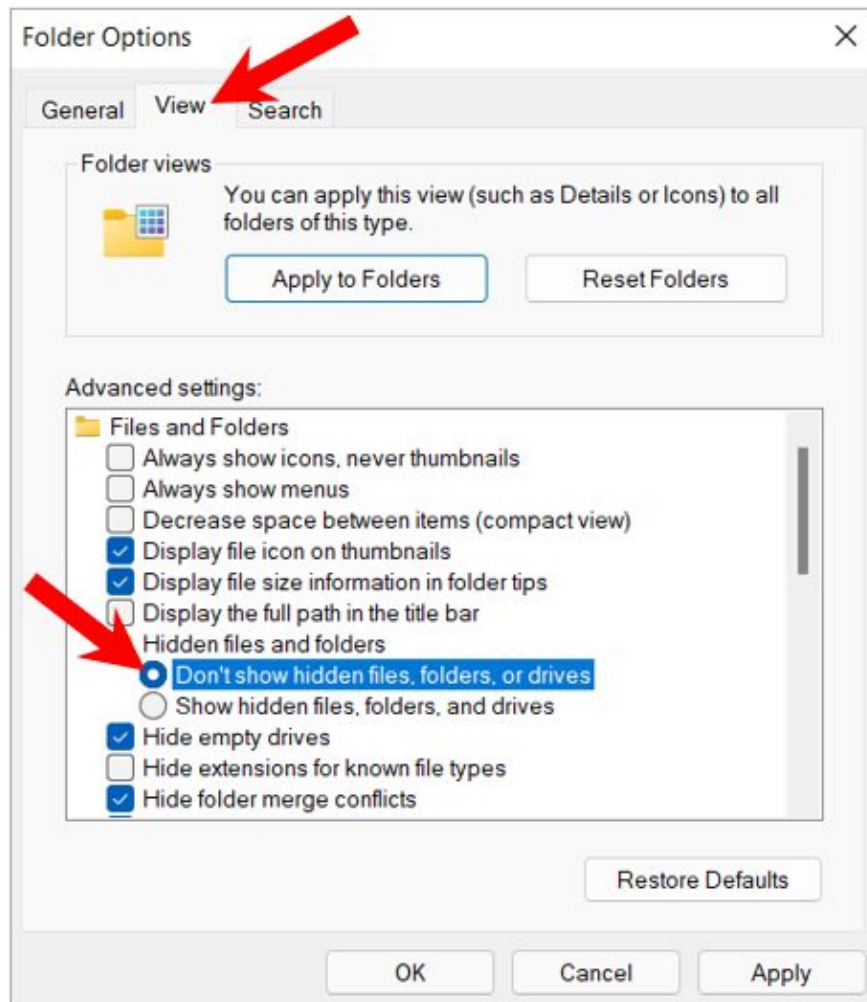
Updated: 12/05/2021 by Computer Hope

Many of the files automatically generated in the Windows operating system are hidden files. As a consequence, certain folders will be populated by many icons that general users have little use for, such as those for thumbs.db or desktop.ini files. The following sections detail how to stop viewing hidden files for each of the more recent versions of Microsoft Windows. To proceed, select your version from the list below.

Windows 11

1. Press **Windows Key** ⊞+**E** to open File Explorer.

2. In the File Explorer window, click the **See more** menu ••• icon on the right side of the menu bar.

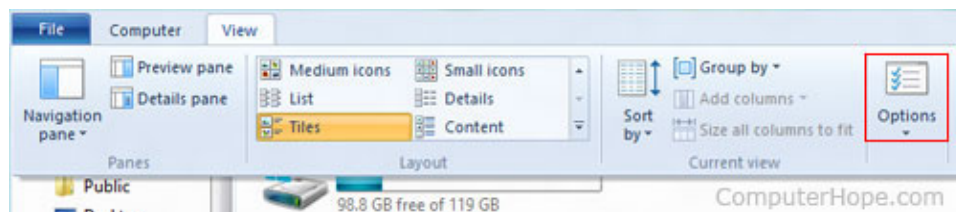3. Select **Options** from the drop-down menu.

4. In the *Folder Options* window, click the **View** tab.

5. In the **Advanced settings** section, under *Hidden files and folders*, select the **Don't show hidden files, folders, or drives** option.

6. Click **Apply**, then **OK**.

Windows 8 and Windows 10

1. Press the **Windows Key** ⊞+**E**.

2. In the window that appears, select the **View** tab in the top-left corner.

3. Locate and click **Options** on the right side.

4. In the Folder Options window, select the **View** tab.

5. Locate the **Advanced settings** section of the window.

6. Under *Hidden files and folders*, select **Don't show hidden files, folders and drives**.

7. Click **Apply**, then **OK**.

Windows Vista and Windows 7

1. Press the **Windows Key** ⊞+**E**.

2. In the window that appears, click **Organize** in the top-left corner.

3. From the drop-down menu, select **Folder and search options**.

4. In the *Folder Options* window, select the **View** tab.

5. Locate the **Advanced settings** section of the window.

6. Under *Hidden files and folders*, select **Don't show hidden files, folders and drives**.

7. Click **Apply**, then **OK**.

Windows XP

1. Click **Start** and then **My Computer**.

2. Click **Tools** and then **Folder Options**.

3. In the *Folder Options* window, click the **View** tab.

4. On the *View* tab, under *Advanced Settings*, select **Don't show hidden files, folders and drives**.

5. Click **Apply**, then **OK**.

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