

Uninstalling Nix

Multi User

Removing a [multi-user installation](#) depends on the operating system.

Linux

If you are on Linux with systemd:

1. Remove the Nix daemon service:

```
sudo systemctl stop nix-daemon.service
sudo systemctl disable nix-daemon.socket nix-daemon.service
sudo systemctl daemon-reload
```

Remove files created by Nix:

```
sudo rm -rf /etc/nix /etc/profile.d/nix.sh /etc/tmpfiles.d/nix-daemon.conf /nix
~root/.nix-channels ~root/.nix-defexpr ~root/.nix-profile
```

Remove build users and their group:

```
for i in $(seq 1 32); do
  sudo userdel nixbld$i
done
sudo groupdel nixbld
```

There may also be references to Nix in

- /etc/bash.bashrc
- /etc/bashrc
- /etc/profile
- /etc/zsh/zshrc
- /etc/zshrc

which you may remove.

macOS

1. If system-wide shell initialisation files haven't been altered since installing Nix, use the backups made by the installer:

```
sudo mv /etc/zshrc.backup-before-nix /etc/zshrc
sudo mv /etc/bashrc.backup-before-nix /etc/bashrc
sudo mv /etc/bash.bashrc.backup-before-nix /etc/bash.bashrc
```

Otherwise, edit `/etc/zshrc`, `/etc/bashrc`, and `/etc/bash.bashrc` to remove the lines sourcing `nix-daemon.sh`, which should look like this:

```
# Nix
if [ -e '/nix/var/nix/profiles/default/etc/profile.d/nix-daemon.sh' ]; then
    . '/nix/var/nix/profiles/default/etc/profile.d/nix-daemon.sh'
fi
# End Nix
```

2. Stop and remove the Nix daemon services:

```
sudo launchctl unload /Library/LaunchDaemons/org.nixos.nix-daemon.plist
sudo rm /Library/LaunchDaemons/org.nixos.nix-daemon.plist
sudo launchctl unload /Library/LaunchDaemons/org.nixos.darwin-store.plist
sudo rm /Library/LaunchDaemons/org.nixos.darwin-store.plist
```

This stops the Nix daemon and prevents it from being started next time you boot the system.

3. Remove the `nixbld` group and the `_nixbuildN` users:

```
sudo dscl . -delete /Groups/nixbld
for u in $(sudo dscl . -list /Users | grep _nixbld); do sudo dscl . -delete /Users/$u; done
```

This will remove all the build users that no longer serve a purpose.

4. Edit `fstab` using `sudo vifs` to remove the line mounting the Nix Store volume on `/nix`, which looks like

```
UUID=<uuid> /nix apfs rw,noauto,nobrowse,suid,owners
```

or

```
LABEL=Nix\040Store /nix apfs rw,nobrowse
```

by setting the cursor on the respective line using the error keys, and pressing `dd`, and then `:wq` to save the file.

This will prevent automatic mounting of the Nix Store volume.

5. Edit `/etc/synthetic.conf` to remove the `nix` line. If this is the only line in the file you can remove it entirely:

```
if [ -f /etc/synthetic.conf ]; then
  if [ "$(cat /etc/synthetic.conf)" = "nix" ]; then
    sudo rm /etc/synthetic.conf
  else
    sudo vi /etc/synthetic.conf
  fi
fi
```

This will prevent the creation of the empty `/nix` directory.

6. Remove the files Nix added to your system, except for the store:

```
sudo rm -rf /etc/nix /var/root/.nix-profile /var/root/.nix-defexpr /var/
root/.nix-channels ~/.nix-profile ~/.nix-defexpr ~/.nix-channels
```

7. Remove the Nix Store volume:

```
sudo diskutil apfs deleteVolume /nix
```

This will remove the Nix Store volume and everything that was added to the store.

If the output indicates that the command couldn't remove the volume, you should make sure you don't have an *unmounted* Nix Store volume. Look for a "Nix Store" volume in the output of the following command:

```
diskutil list
```

If you *do* find a "Nix Store" volume, delete it by running `diskutil deleteVolume` with the store volume's `diskXsY` identifier.

Note

After you complete the steps here, you will still have an empty `/nix` directory. This is an expected sign of a successful uninstall. The empty `/nix` directory will disappear the next time you reboot.

You do not have to reboot to finish uninstalling Nix. The uninstall is complete. macOS (Catalina+) directly controls root directories, and its read-only root will prevent you from manually deleting the empty `/nix` mountpoint.

Single User

To remove a [single-user installation](#) of Nix, run:

```
$ rm -rf /nix ~/.nix-channels ~/.nix-defexpr ~/.nix-profile
```

You might also want to manually remove references to Nix from your `~/.profile`.