

Cannot delete files in Windows 95/98/ME Or Deleted Files do not go to the Recycle Bin

The Problem

You have **Windows 95/98/ME** and cannot delete files through My Computer or Windows Explorer, from any of your PC's Hard Drives – you get the error “**Cannot delete <filename>. Cannot find specified path**”. But you can delete the files in DOS.

Another problem that sometimes occurs is that, totally ignoring the settings you have set on your “Recycle Bin”, Windows always fully erases files and never sends them to the Recycle Bin.

These problems happen if the Recycle Bin has been corrupted, or third party utility disk programs have interfered with the Recycle Bin.

The Solution – Win95/98

Reboot your PC.

As soon as the PC starts rebooting....

*If you have **Windows 95/98** installed, repeatedly press the **F8** function key until you get prompted with the Windows Boot Menu*

*If you have **Windows 98** you can also in most cases simply hold down the **CTRL** key until you get prompted with the Windows Boot Menu*

The Windows Boot Menu

1. Normal
2. Logged (BOOTLOG.TXT)
3. Safe Mode
4. Safe Mode with network support
5. Step-by-Step confirmation
6. Command prompt only
7. Safe Mode command prompt only
8. Previous version of MS-DOS

- Choose **Command Prompt Only**.

- At the DOS prompt (C:\>), enter each of the following commands, pressing the **Enter** key after each one.

Note, if your problem is with deleting files on your second Hard Drive (your "D:" drive), then on the commands below substitute "C:\" with "D:\".

```
ATTRIB -R -S -H C:\RECYCLED [ENTER]  
DELTREE C:\RECYCLED [ENTER]
```

- Answer **Y** to confirm that you do want to delete C:\RECYCLED.

- The above commands will delete the Recycle Bin from the specified drive.

- Reboot your PC by pressing **Ctrl+Alt+Del**.

- On reboot Windows will automatically recreate a fresh new Recycle Bin, and this will most times solve your problem.

- You're done.**

**The Solution –
Windows ME**

The solution for Windows ME is more complex as, in Windows Millennium Edition, Microsoft took away the valuable "**Command Prompt Only**" menu option. As a result, to get access to DOS you need to boot your PC with a Windows Millennium Boot Disk. Here are the steps you need to follow :

- Pick up a **Windows Millennium Boot Disk** from our website, in the following place :

www.AnswersThatWork.com
Libraries of Answers That Work
Boot Disks

- Using Floppy Disk Manager, as instructed, create a Windows ME Boot Disk.
- Boot your PC with the Windows ME Boot Disk.
Note that you may need to modify your PC's BIOS setup in order to be able to boot your PC from the floppy drive.
- On successful boot up from the floppy drive, you will be presented with the Windows Millennium Startup Menu.
- Choose **Start computer with CD-ROM support**.
- After a long booting process, you will find yourself at the DOS **A:\>** prompt.
- When at that prompt (**A:\>**), enter each of the following commands, pressing the **Enter** key after each one.

Note, if your problem is with deleting files on your second Hard Drive (your "D:" drive), then on the commands below substitute "C:\" with "D:\".

ATTRIB -R -S -H C:\RECYCLED [ENTER]

DELTREE C:\RECYCLED [ENTER]

- Answer **Y** to confirm that you do want to delete C:\RECYCLED.
- The above commands will delete the Recycle Bin from the specified drive.
- Reboot your PC by pressing **Ctrl+Alt+Del**.
Remember to go back into your BIOS's PC to reset the booting sequence to be from your hard disk only.
- On reboot Windows will automatically recreate a fresh new Recycle Bin, and this will most times solve your problem.
- You're done.**

ooooooooOooooooooo