

# How can I delete a file using R? Can you provide an example?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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To delete a file using R, you can use the "file.remove()" function. This function takes a file path as its argument and permanently deletes the file from the specified location. An example of using this function would be: `file.remove("C:/Documents/example.txt")`, which would delete the file "example.txt" from the "Documents" folder located in the C drive. It is important to note that this function does not move the file to the recycle bin, so the file will be permanently deleted without the possibility of retrieval.

## Delete a File Using R (With Example)

You can use the following syntax to delete a file in a specific location using R:

```
#define file to delete  
this_file <-  
"C:/Users/bob/Documents/my_data_files/soccer_data.csv"  
  
#delete file if it exists  
if (file.exists(this_file)) {  
file.remove(this_file)  
cat("File deleted")  
} else {  
cat("No file found")  
}
```

This particular syntax attempts to delete a file called `soccer_data.csv` located in the following folder:

**C:/Users/bob/Documents/my\_data\_files**

If the file exists, the `file.remove()` function deletes the file and uses the function to output the message "File deleted" to the console.

If the file does not exist, then the `cat` function outputs the message "No file found" to the console.

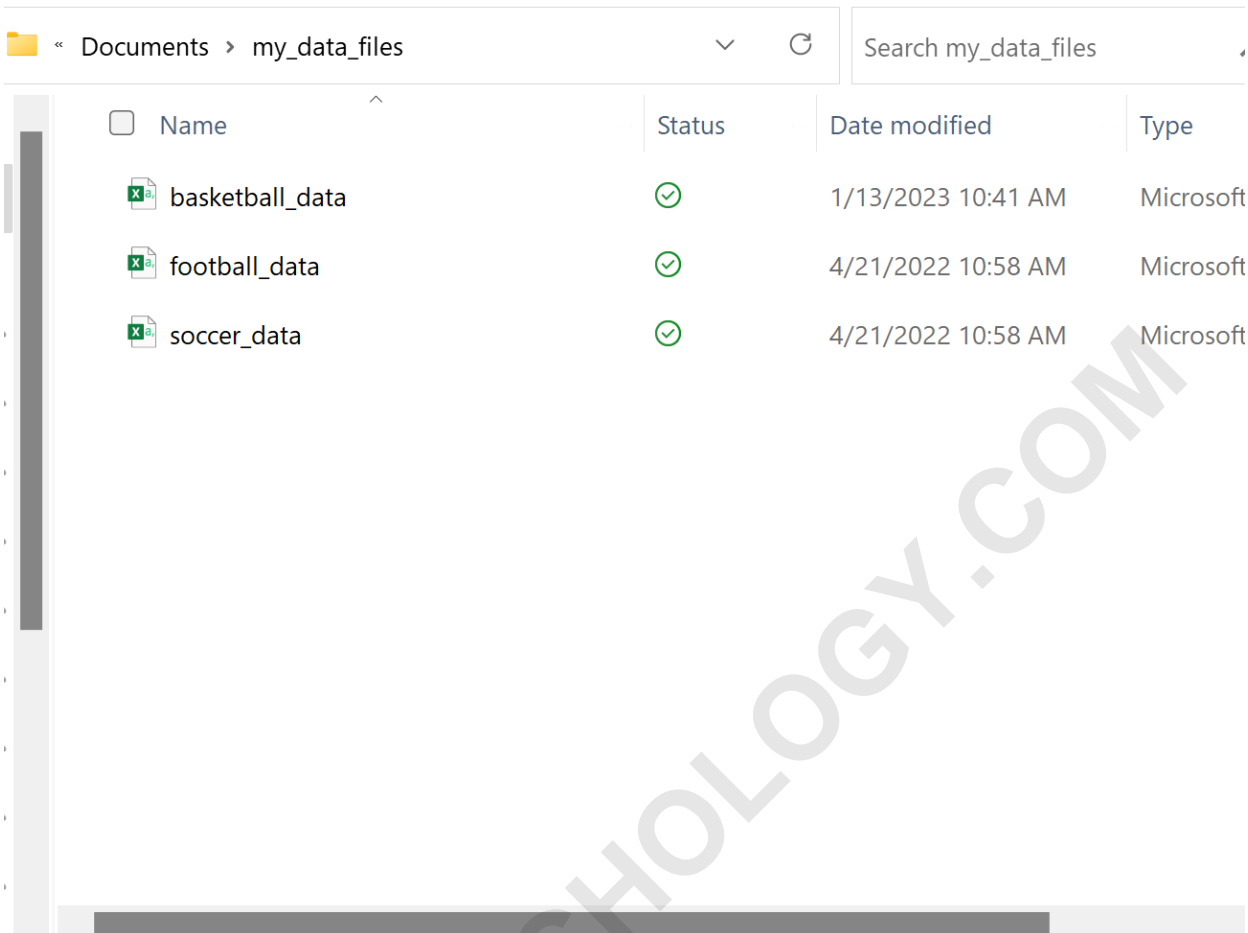
The following example shows how to use this syntax in practice.

**Example: Delete a File Using R**

Suppose we want to delete a file called `soccer_data.csv` located in the following folder:

**C:/Users/bob/Documents/my\_data\_files**

The folder currently has three files in it:



Name	Status	Date modified	Type
basketball_data	✓	1/13/2023 10:41 AM	Microsoft
football_data	✓	4/21/2022 10:58 AM	Microsoft
soccer_data	✓	4/21/2022 10:58 AM	Microsoft

**We can use the following syntax in R to delete this file if it exists:**

```
#define file to delete  
this_file <-  
"C:/Users/bob/Documents/my_data_files/soccer_data.c  
sv"
```



```
#delete file if it exists  
if (file.exists(this_file)) {  
file.remove(this_file)
```

```
cat("File deleted")  
} else {  
cat("No file found")  
}
```

## File deleted

We receive the message "File deleted" which tells us that the file has been deleted.

If we return to the folder where the file used to exist, we can see that it indeed has been deleted:

<input type="checkbox"/> Name	Status	Date modified	T
 basketball_data	✓	1/13/2023 10:41 AM	M
 football_data	✓	4/21/2022 10:58 AM	M