

# How can I delete datasets in SAS?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I delete datasets in SAS?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES.  
Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=164136>

Deleting datasets in SAS is a simple process that can be done using the DATA step or through the SAS Explorer window. First, navigate to the location of the dataset you wish to delete. In the SAS Explorer window, right-click on the dataset and select "Delete." Alternatively, in the DATA step, use the DROP statement to remove the dataset. It is important to note that once a dataset is deleted, it cannot be recovered. Therefore, it is recommended to make a backup copy of the dataset before deleting it. Deleting datasets in SAS is a quick and efficient way to manage and organize your data.

## Delete Datasets in SAS (3 Examples)

Here are the three most common ways to delete datasets in SAS:

### Method 1: Delete One Dataset

```
proc datasetslibrary=work nolist;  
delete data2;  
quit;
```

### Method 2: Delete Multiple Datasets

```
proc datasetslibrary=work nolist;  
delete data2 data3;  
quit;
```

### Method 3: Delete All Datasets in Library

```
proc datasetslibrary=work kill;
```

The following examples show how to use each method using a **WORK** library that contains three datasets: **data1**, **data2**, and **data3**.

#### Example 1: Delete One Dataset

We can use the following code to delete only the dataset titled **data2** in our **WORK** library:

```
/*delete data2 from work library*/  
proc datasetslibrary=work nolist;  
delete data2;  
quit;
```

We can then use the following code to list all remaining datasets in our **WORK** library:

```
proc datasetslibrary=work memtype=data;  
run;  
quit;
```

Directory	
Libref	WORK
Engine	V9
Physical Name	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B00000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Filename	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B00000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Inode Number	1776228
Access Permission	rwx-----
Owner Name	u1311781
File Size	0KB
File Size (bytes)	284

#	Name	Member Type	File Size	Last Modified
1	DATA1	DATA	256KB	01/13/2022 19:39:07
2	DATA3	DATA	256KB	01/13/2022 19:39:07

We can see that only data1 and data3 remain in our WORK library. The dataset called data2 has been deleted.

#### Example 2: Delete Multiple Datasets

We can use the following code to delete the datasets titled data2 and data3 in our WORK library:

```
/*delete data2 from work library*/  
proc datasetslibrary=work nolist;  
delete data2 data3;  
quit;
```

We can then use the following code to list all remaining datasets in our WORK library:

```

/*view all remaining datasets in work library*/
proc datasetslibrary=work memtype=data;
run;
quit;

```

Directory	
Libref	WORK
Engine	V9
Physical Name	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B00000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Filename	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B00000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Inode Number	1776228
Access Permission	rwx-----
Owner Name	u1311781
File Size	0KB
File Size (bytes)	262

  

#	Name	Member Type	File Size	Last Modified
1	DATA1	DATA	256KB	01/13/2022 19:44:37

We can see that only data1 remains in our WORK library. The datasets data2 and data3 have been deleted.

### Example 3: Delete All Datasets in Library

We can use the following code to delete all datasets in our WORK library:

```

/*delete all datasets from work library*/
proc datasets library=workkill;

```

We can then use the following code to list all remaining datasets in our WORK library:

```
/*view all remaining datasets in work library*/  
proc datasetslibrary=work memtype=data;  
run;  
quit;
```

Directory	
Libref	WORK
Engine	V9
Physical Name	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B0000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Filename	/saswork/SAS_work6A780000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com/SAS_work498B0000C50_odaws01-usw2.oda.sas.com
Inode Number	1776228
Access Permission	rwX-----
Owner Name	u1311781
File Size	0KB
File Size (bytes)	240

We can see that there are no remaining datasets in our WORK library since we used the KILL function to delete all datasets.

#### Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in SAS: