

# How can I remove duplicate rows in Excel based on two columns?

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process of removing duplicate rows in Excel based on two columns involves identifying and eliminating rows that have identical values in both columns. This can be achieved by using built-in Excel functions or by creating a custom formula. By removing duplicate rows, the data can be streamlined and more accurate information can be obtained. This process is often used to clean up data sets and improve the overall quality of data analysis in Excel.

## **Excel: Remove Duplicate Rows Based on Two Columns**

**Often you may want to remove duplicate rows based on two columns in Excel.**

**Fortunately this is easy to do using the Remove Duplicates function within the Data tab.**

**The following example shows how to use this function in practice.**

**Example: Remove Duplicates Based on Two Columns in Excel**

**Suppose we have the following dataset that shows the team name and position of various basketball players:**

	A	B	C	D	E
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>			
2	A	Guard			
3	A	Guard			
4	A	Forward			
5	A	Forward			
6	A	Center			
7	B	Guard			
8	B	Guard			
9	B	Guard			
10	B	Forward			
11	B	Center			
12	C	Guard			
13	C	Forward			
14	C	Forward			
15	C	Forward			
16	C	Center			
17					
18					
19					
20					

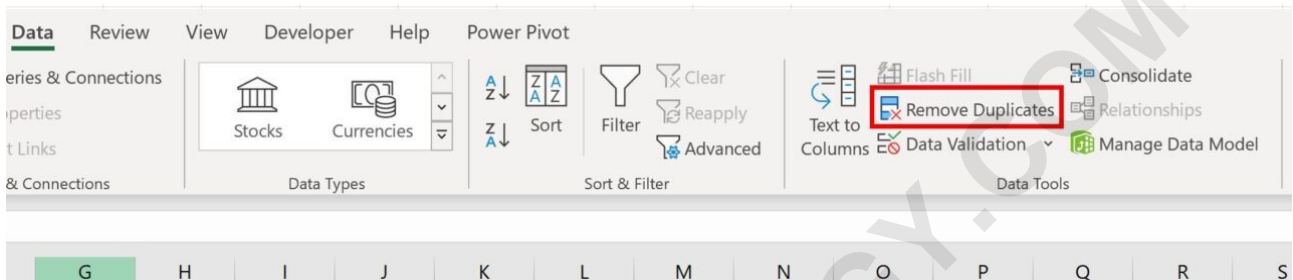
**Notice that there are several duplicates across both columns.**

**For example:**

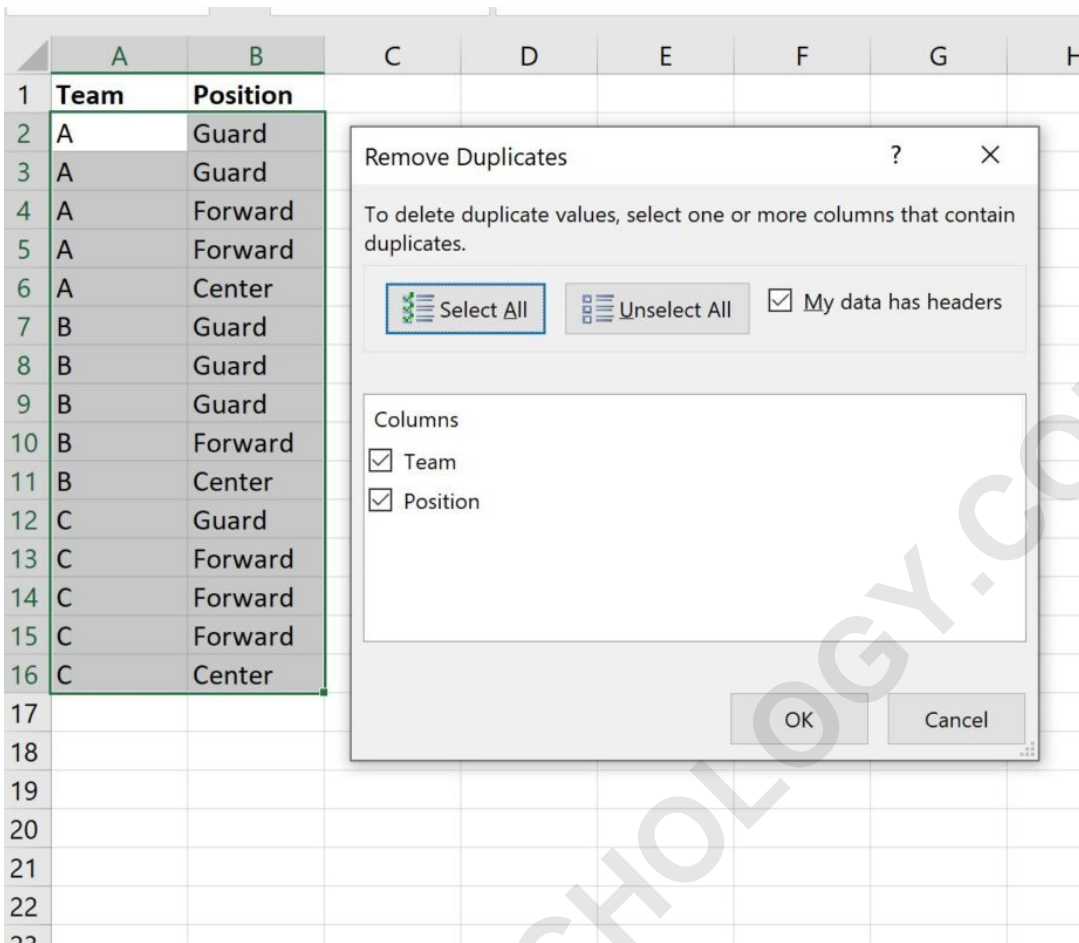
**There are multiple players who have a team of A and a position of Guard. There are multiple players who have a team of A and a position of Forward.**

**And so on.**

To remove these rows that have duplicates across two columns, we need to highlight the cell range A1:B16 and then click the Data tab along the top ribbon and then click Remove Duplicates:



In the new window that appears, make sure the box is checked next to My data has headers and make sure the boxes next to Team and Position are both checked:



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with columns A and B selected. The data is as follows:

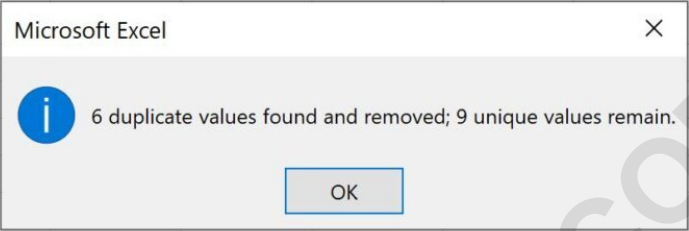
	A	B
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>
2	A	Guard
3	A	Guard
4	A	Forward
5	A	Forward
6	A	Center
7	B	Guard
8	B	Guard
9	B	Guard
10	B	Forward
11	B	Center
12	C	Guard
13	C	Forward
14	C	Forward
15	C	Forward
16	C	Center

The 'Remove Duplicates' dialog box is open, showing the following options:

- To delete duplicate values, select one or more columns that contain duplicates.
- Select All
- Unselect All
- My data has headers
- Columns:
  - Team
  - Position
- OK
- Cancel

**Once you click OK, the rows with duplicate values across both columns will automatically be removed:**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	<b>Team</b>	<b>Position</b>						
2	A	Guard						
3	A	Forward						
4	A	Center						
5	B	Guard						
6	B	Forward						
7	B	Center						
8	C	Guard						
9	C	Forward						
10	C	Center						
11								
12								
13								
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15								
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18								
19								
20								
21								



**Excel tells us that 6 duplicate rows were found and removed and that 9 unique rows remain.**

**For example:**

**There is only one row where Team is equal to A and Position is equal to Guard. There is only one row where Team is equal to A and Position is equal to Forward.**

**And so on.**

**Additional Resources**

**The following tutorials explain how to perform other common operations in Excel:**

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