

# How can I use the CLEAN function in Excel to remove all non-printable characters from a cell?

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The CLEAN function in Excel is a useful tool for removing all non-printable characters from a cell. This function allows users to easily clean up data by eliminating any hidden or non-visible characters that may be causing issues. By using the CLEAN function, all non-printable characters such as line breaks, tabs, and special symbols will be removed, leaving only the visible and printable characters in the cell. This can be particularly helpful when dealing with large datasets or when importing data from external sources. With the CLEAN function, users can ensure that their data is free from any unwanted characters and is ready for further analysis or processing.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **CLEAN** function in Microsoft Excel.

## Description

Removes all nonprintable characters from text. Use CLEAN on text imported from other applications that contains characters that may not print with your operating system. For example, you can use CLEAN to remove some low-level computer code that is frequently at the beginning and end of data files and cannot be printed.

**Important:** The CLEAN function was designed to remove the first 32 nonprinting characters in the 7-bit ASCII code (values 0 through 31) from text. In the Unicode character set, there are additional nonprinting characters (values 127, 129, 141, 143, 144, and 157). By itself, the CLEAN function does not remove these additional nonprinting characters. For an example of how to remove these additional nonprinting characters from text, see [Top ten ways to clean your data](#).

## Syntax

CLEAN(text)

The CLEAN function syntax has the following arguments:

**Text** Required. Any worksheet information from which you want to remove nonprintable characters.

## Example

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet. For formulas to show results, select them, press F2, and then press Enter. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

<b>Data</b>		
=CHAR(9)&"Monthly report"&CHAR(10)		

Data		
Formula	Description	Result
=CLEAN(A2)	Removes the nonprintable characters CHAR(9) and CHAR(10) from the text string in cell A2.	Monthly report

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